

"HONORING THE PAST, TREASURING THE PRESENT, SHAPING THE FUTURE"



Round Table of Education Event



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Deputy Commissioner, Office of Special Populations and Monitoring in Texas

Matt Montaña



- He served for 16 years in the Bernadillo School System in New Mexico as a classroom teacher, dept. chair, assessment coordinator, asst. principal and principal at Bernadillo High School.
- Senior Deputy Commissioner for P-20 Education at New York State Education Department. During her tenure, graduation rates increased, and achievement gaps closed.
- Previously, he served as Deputy Secretary of Teaching and Learning at the New Mexico Public Education Department overseeing Language and Culture, Teacher Quality, Special Education, and Career and Technical Education for seven years.
- Currently as DC in the Texas Education Agency (TEA), he works to strengthen Special Education services in Texas, expand the support and guidance for serving English learners, and implementing policies and practices that create equitable opportunities and outcomes for students represented within special populations.

Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Nevada Department of Education

Jhone Ebert



- She began her career as a math teacher, later working as chief technology officer and chief innovation and productivity officer in the Clark County School District.
- Senior Deputy Commissioner for P-20 Education at New York State Education Department. During her tenure, graduation rates increased, and achievement gaps closed.
- Through the COVID-19 pandemic, she has worked to provide support and flexibility to districts and schools while ensuring that vulnerable students receive the services they needed, including English learner supports, professional development for teachers, social-emotional supports, and resources for all community members, among others.
- She has received numerous awards and recognition for her role in impacting students' academic achievement.

State Superintendent of Education in Illinois

Dr. Carmen Ayala



- Dr. Ayala has more than 30 years of education experience, most recently as the first woman and Latina State Superintendent of Education.
- She began her career in the Chicago Public School system. She has served as an Asst. Superintendent, Director of Bilingual Services, and teacher.
- She is a strong supporter of Culturally Responsive Teaching and Equity champion as it helped her improve students reading and math skills as a district superintendent.

Minnesota's Commissioner of Education from 2019-2021

Mary Cathryn Ricker



- National Board Certified middle school English/language arts teacher with over a decade of classroom experience.
- She previously served as executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers and as the president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers.
- Third generation teacher. Her teaching and leadership skills have been recognized with a number of other honors, including receiving the Education Minnesota Peterson-Schaubach Outstanding Leadership Award and serving as a featured contributor in the Annenberg Foundation's national professional development series, "Write in the Middle."

State Superintendent of Public Instruction in California

Tony Thurmond



- Previously, Superintendent Thurmond served on the Richmond City Council, West Contra Costa Unified School Board.
- Superintendent Thurmond came from humble beginnings. His mother was an immigrant from Panama who came to San Jose, California, to be a teacher. His father was a soldier who didn't return to his family after the Vietnam War.
- Education is at the core of Superintendent Thurmond's legislative record. He authored legislation that successfully expanded the free lunch program, bilingual education, and the Chafee Grant college scholarship program for foster youth.

Thank you
for
attending!

