



❖ SANDY SANCHEZ THORSTENSON - Associate

Biographical Information

- Sandy Sanchez Thorstenson served fifteen years as superintendent of the Whittier Union High School District having spent her entire 39-year career in Whittier Union as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent of educational services and superintendent. During her tenure, the Whittier Union High School District, a minority-majority high school district with a student enrollment comprised of eighty-six percent Latino and sixty-nine percent socio-economically disadvantaged students, demonstrated remarkable gains in student achievement at every school, in multiple indicators and over time. Most importantly, Whittier Union narrowed the achievement gap from 35% to 9% and proved on behalf of its students that demographics do not determine destiny.
- Mrs. Thorstenson was selected as ACSA's 2012 Superintendent of the Year for the American Association of School Administrators and honored with ACSA's 2016 Marcus Foster Award for Administrator Excellence. She served as president of the ACSA Superintendency Council helping superintendents to speak with one voice across the state.
- She also served as past president of California City Superintendents' Association, served on the Pivot Learning Partners Board and is a member of Urban Education Dialogue and the Southern California Superintendents' Association. She is a member of the Soroptimist International of Whittier and a past member of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
- She serves as the chair and Governor Brown's appointee as the superintendent representative of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, CCEE).