



❖ RICH THOME - Partner

Biographical Information

- Mr. Rich Thome joined Leadership Associates in 2006. He has conducted more than 72 executive searches and 109 School Board workshops. He recently served as Director, Leadership Development in the Institute for Entrepreneurship in Education (IEE), a research and professional learning center and the Educational Leadership Development Academy (ELDA) in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES), at the University of San Diego.
- Prior to joining Leadership Associates, Mr. Thome served as assistant superintendent of human resources and technology, and superintendent search consultant for the San Diego County Office of Education, conducting searches for numerous school districts in the County.
- Mr. Thome served as superintendent of schools for South Bay Union School District. He also served as superintendent of Cardiff Elementary School District. Previously, he served students for 23 years as teacher, principal, coordinator, director and assistant superintendent in the Capistrano Unified School District.
- Mr. Thome recently served on the University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Sciences Advisory Board and on the Classroom of the Future Foundation board of directors.
- Mr. Thome received his BA from California State University, Los Angeles, and his master's degree from Pepperdine University. He is fluently bilingual in Spanish and received his Bilingual, Cross Cultural Specialist credential in California.
- Mr. Thome was awarded the prestigious Ohtli Award in 2008 for his 40 years of services to the Latino Community. In 2007 he was awarded the Excellence in Leadership Award by the University of California, San Diego and in 2006 he was awarded the Willie Velasquez Community Service Award.
- Throughout the course of his career he has received the Honorary Service Award from the California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students; The Orange County Hispanic Educator of the Year Award; and the Apple Distinguished Educator Award.
- Mr. Thome gained distinction in San Diego County and the region serving as chairperson of the Superintendents' Technology Advisory Committee and leading the expansion of technology centers and efforts of school districts throughout the region.
- Mr. Thome is married and has three children and one grandchild.