



THE OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Summer Teaching and
Learning Conference**

**New Superintendent
Academy Year 1**

**New Superintendent
Academy Year 2**

**SpEd Directors
Academy**

**New Principals
Academy**

**Assistant Principals
Seminar Series**

Reflecting on COSA's 50th Anniversary at Seaside

Last week, we saw over 800 people at the COSA Seaside 50th Anniversary. The week kicked off on Juneteenth with a screening of The Right to Read, a documentary about the “fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read” and a discussion facilitated by one of the conference keynotes, Nichole Watson of Parkrose School District, and 23-24 COSA Board President, LaShawanta Spears.

In true Seaside tradition, Friday morning began bright and early with the Fun Run and Walk and with yoga on the beach before the conference began. COSA's previous Executive Directors, Dr. Ozzie Rose and Kent Huntsaker, alongside the first COSA President, Bert Simmons, joined Craig Hawkins onstage and together they painted the picture of COSA's vision 50 years ago and the progress made to date.

Reflecting Continued...

ODE Director Dr. Williams opened the morning session and Ginger Johnson set the tone for the conference in her energetic and authentic keynote about connection and belonging.

Later that morning, participants dove in to their breakout sessions before the afternoon general session where award recipients were recognized, including Superintendent of the Year Darin Drill, High School Principal of the Year Molly Ouche, Middle School Principal of the Year Cris Gwilliam, Assistant Principal of the Year Sean Radford and Elementary Principal of the Year Rita Hepper. The Equity Team at David Douglas High School received the COSA President's Award and we recognized the recent doctoral graduates: Alisha McBride (Vale SD), Lisa Harlan (Consultant), Tony Mann (Molalla SD), Sara LeRoy (Salem-Keizer SD) and Kourtney Ferrua (McMinnville SD).

Nichole Watson took us to Prescott Elementary in her afternoon keynote and closed out the session with hope and a call to action for Oregon's students.

Ron Chandler, Customer Engagement Director at Apple, kicked off Saturday morning's keynote and we celebrated the OACOA Achievement of Excellence award recipient, Erika Bare and the Lau Leadership Impact Award recipient, Charlie Bauer. COSA's new Executive Director, Dr. Krista Parent, was sworn in to office as well as the 2024-25 COSA department presidents.

This event was made possible with the support of COSA members, volunteers, sponsors, and exhibitors.



2024-25 COSA Presidents take their oath. Alisha McBride (OASE), Vanessa Jones (OACOA), Christy Hartford (OESPA), Tobey Huddleston (OASSA), and Joseph Hatrick (Equity).



2023-24 COSA Board President LaShawanta Spears and Parkrose Nichole Watson leading a screening and discussion on The Right to Read.

New COSA Executive Director's Vision for Year 1

It was the privilege of a lifetime to be sworn in as COSA's next Executive Director on the 50th Anniversary of COSA's existence. A lot has changed in education over those five decades, but one thing that hasn't changed is the importance of effective school and district leadership to ensure the success of all students in our care. Effective school and district leadership is second only to the quality of classroom instruction in determining student achievement. As I begin my first few days in my new role as Executive Director, what I want all COSA members to know is that YOU are our top priority, and we aim to support you in every way possible.

I have always approached my leadership work from a "teaching and learning" perspective, and I want to be a lead learner in the way I approach this new role as well. When I was hired by the COSA Board, I shared a dozen specific examples of the work I felt COSA could engage in to take a great organization to even new heights. Here are a few of those examples:



- Expand on COSA's current culture of togetherness and belonging by ensuring that every COSA member is actively engaged in COSA work in some way.
- Expand supports to the growing number and types of leadership roles in districts. Over the past several years the work of school districts in Oregon has grown and districts have added positions to lead these new areas.
- Explore providing more regionalized services to members in collaboration with ESDs and RENs and strengthen the relationship amongst these organizations.
- Lead the way for a completely redesigned and targeted approach to calculating appropriate funding for the K-12 system. The current model is based on outdated assumptions about what the context in K-12 education looks like today. We need to start a new conversation about how our students are doing, and what they need, and then determine what funding is needed to provide those experiences.
- Engage COSA retirees in the ongoing leadership work, whether it be in mentoring, teaching, leading affinity spaces or other ways retirees can give back. There are a lot of incredible retirees that still have quality time and experience to share and are looking for a way to give back.
- Develop a clear, regular system of communication that members understand and can count on. This would include communication to share important information, and a system that highlights and celebrates the great work of Oregon leaders.

Please reach out any time and share your thoughts on how COSA can support leaders in Oregon. I also love to come out and see the great work that is happening in your schools and districts. I am accessible to all of you and please don't hesitate to reach out.

In leadership,
Krista

Policy and Advocacy Update

At the Seaside Conference in June, our Policy and Advocacy team provided a brief recap of the 2024 Legislative Session, as well as a preview of the 2025 Legislative Session. For a copy of our presentation, check out your [COSA conference app](#). During this 2024-25 interim period, our team is organizing two COSA workgroups, in partnership with the Oregon Association of School Executives (OASE). One workgroup is focused on Funding (Current Service Level Calculation, State School Fund, Special Education Funding, and Facilities Funding, and more), and another workgroup is focused on Student Supports (Mental Health, Attendance, Special Education, Unfinished Learning and Acceleration, Summer Learning, and Workforce, and more).

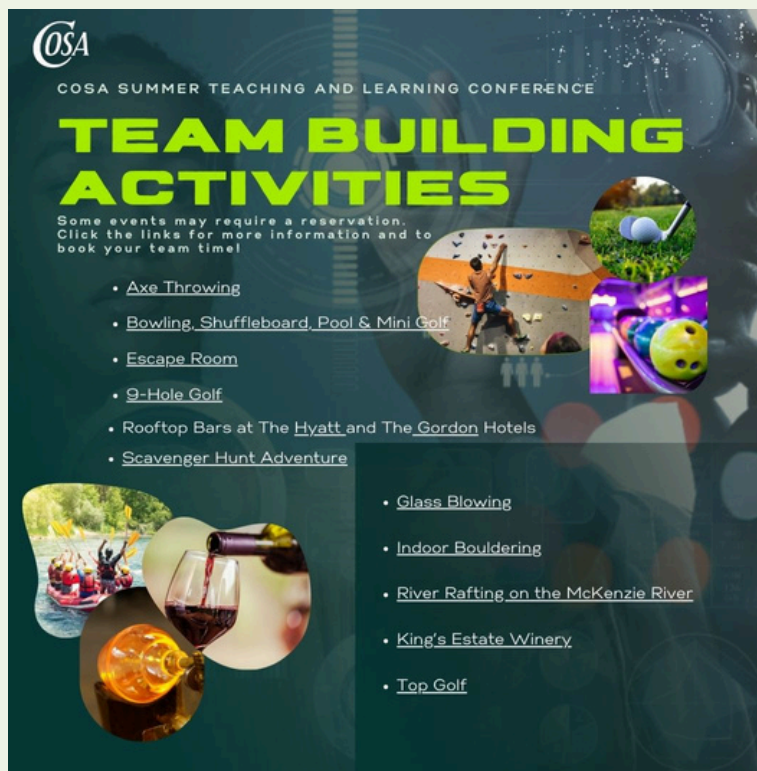
In addition to our two COSA-led workgroups, several COSA members – along with our Policy and Advocacy Team – are participating / tracking ten additional statewide workgroups and task forces. The topics of these workgroups and task forces include: Chronic Absenteeism, Summer Learning and Afterschool Programs, Current Service Level, K-12 Accountability, Statewide Educator Salary Schedules, Student Social Emotional Health, Youth Behavioral Health Workforce, School Medicaid, Substitute Teachers, and K-12 Disqualifying Crimes.

Summer Teaching and Learning Conference: TOMORROW'S LEARNING, TODAY

Registration is open for the Summer Teaching and Learning Conference with the theme, “Tomorrow’s Learning, Today.” We are ready to kick off the school year with keynotes on [Equity Based Leadership](#), [The Impact of AI on Education](#), and [Engaging Your Full Community in Mental Health Strategies](#),

We also have robust breakout sessions and opportunities to schedule team time.

We’ve identified fun activities in the Eugene area for added team-building time. Many events are by reservation only, so book now if you’re interested in any of these opportunities! [Click here](#) to view the flier



COLLABORATIVE CORNER

COSA Partner Programs Powering Student Success

COSA is partially supported by Partners that provide many important goods and services for education. The Collaborative Corner will feature partner highlights and resources in each monthly communication.

CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES

iReady

It's Never Too Late to Learn to Read

Introducing the newest edition of Phonics for Reading, authored by literacy expert Dr. Anita Archer, and brought to classrooms by Curriculum Associates.

Students who aren't reading proficiently by Grade 3 face academic, social, and personal challenges, including being four times less likely to graduate high school* than their classmates.

Equip your struggling readers in Grades 3–12 with the critical foundational skills that are essential for succeeding as readers. Phonics for Reading honors students' maturity as grade-level thinkers while accelerating them toward grade-level reading.

Unlock your students' ability to read. [See how with Phonics for Reading.](#)



*Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved from <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED518818>.

Do you have something to share with COSA members? Please reach out to Cate Study (cate@cosa.k12.or.us) for more information on The Oregon Administrator.