



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carl Fong, CETPA President

### Board of Directors

#### PRESIDENT

**Carl Fong, Information Technology Executive Director**  
Orange County Department of Education  
200 Kalmus Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

#### PRESIDENT ELECT

**Warren Williams, Director II, ROP**  
Grossmont Union High School District  
1100 Murray Drive  
El Cajon, CA 92020

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Darryl LaGace, Chief Technology Officer**  
Lemon Grove School District  
8025 Lincoln Street  
Lemon Grove, CA 92045

#### TREASURER

**L. Russ Brawn, Chief Operations Officer**  
FCMAT/CSIS  
770 L Street, Suite 1120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### SECRETARY/WEB CHAIR

**Gregory W. Lindner, Technology Services Director**  
Elk Grove Unified School District  
9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Andrea Bennett**  
915 L Street #C424  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### CONSULTANT, PUBLICATIONS AND WEB DEVELOPMENT

**Rob Chambers**  
1800 19th Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

#### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

**Dr. Kelly Calhoun, Director of Educational Technology & Information Systems**  
Folsom Cordova Unified School District  
945 Riley Street  
Folsom, CA 95630

**Stephen Carr, Executive Director Technology Services**  
Ventura County Office of Education  
5189 Verdugo Way  
Camarillo, CA 93012

#### Todd Finnell

**Chief Executive Officer, CA K-12 High Speed Network**  
Imperial County Office of Education  
1398 Sperber Road  
El Centro, CA 92243

#### Oswaldo Galarza, Information & Technology Services Officer

Oakland Unified School District  
314 10th Street, Room 211  
Oakland, CA 94606

#### Scott Sexsmith, Chief Management Information Officer

Capistrano Unified School District  
Technology & Information Services  
33122 Valle Road  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

#### Terrell Tucker, Director Information & Technology Services

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District  
4200 Ashe Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93313

## The year of opportunity for IT Executives



In the last issue, I mention that “the first of many selected candidates will start the Chief Technology Officer’s Mentor Project in February.” Well, they’re off to the races to discover what the next generation of IT Executives in the K12 community will be like. I use the term IT Executive because there is no one title that fits what we do. One thing is certain; these IT Executives will not just be supporting the business applications, student information systems, or any in-house developed custom applications. These IT Executives will be helping to reinvent them. They will become the leaders of tomorrow.

I read somewhere that, “IT leaders are becoming full-fledged business strategists.” How true. We no longer just fix computers, install software, or maintain networks. As current CTO/CIO/IT directors in our educational communities, we now need to understand the fiscal impact of implementing technology, the infusion of new technology in our organizations to meet the demands, the security to protect it and the impact of legislation in our environments. In short, we need to wear the hats of a chief business officer (CBO), chief technology officer (CTO), chief information officer (CIO), chief security officer (CSO), and customer service representative (CSR). But wait, there’s another hat—the chief academic officer (CAO). As current and future IT executives, we need to understand curriculum requirements and, at the same time, understand the changing nature of the technology and its potential in this environment.

Opportunities are here with CETPA’s mission, the CTO Mentor Program, the 3C Council with CoSN, the various partnerships and our conference theme for this year of “Enabling Opportunity.”

As you read through this issue, I encourage all of you to consider the opportunities available to you. ■

## Best Practices: Lincoln on Leadership

Once a year, I read or listen to Donald T. Phillips’ *Lincoln on Leadership*. This year, this book has special meaning as the CETPA sponsored Chief Technology Officer training program begins for 20 individuals in our profession. The Lincoln principals discussed in this readily apply to all of us.



By Philip Scrivano

Lincoln’s challenges in leadership are the similar to the challenges technology leaders face today. We are often charged with implementing large projects with uncertain objectives with little funding and few men. One of Lincoln’s greatest challenges was getting his generals to carry through with his direction.

With every challenge and frustration Lincoln faced, he realized that people were

the most important part of the equation. If he was upset at one of his men, he would write in a letter a blistering rebuke of the person, but never send the letter. He also made sure he always maintained an open-door policy to everyone and saw enemies as people he needed to learn from.

CETPA, as an organization, has the vision to raise the professionalism, and pay, for technology leaders in our state. The CTO project is a great example. I encourage every leader to assist the CETPA board in attaining this goal. Reading this book and applying the Lincoln principals will help us enhance the status and delivery of technology in education. ■

*Phil Scrivano is vice president of Customer Services for LightSpeed Systems. He can be reached at (661) 716-7600 or phil@lightspeedsystems.com.*