



School news

from the Santa Barbara County Education Office

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Cirone announces retirement

Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools Bill Cirone, the longest serving county superintendent in the state of California, announced Thursday that he will be retiring on July 1 after serving 34 years in the position.

At the regular meeting of the county board of education Thursday, the board voted to acknowledge and accept the date of retirement, and appoint Deputy Superintendent Susan Salcido to become county superintendent of schools on July 1.

County Superintendent Cirone was first elected to his position in 1982 and was reelected every four years since, becoming the longest-serving county superintendent of schools in California.

The position, and the office it manages, was established by the California State Constitution to serve as an extension of the state department of education, providing service and leadership to school districts countywide.

Superintendent Cirone began his career in public education in 1960 as a teacher in Harlem in New York City. “I have always considered our public schools one of America’s greatest accomplishments and the bedrock of our democracy,” he said.

He has a long track record of leadership in education, business, and civic affairs, and his success is clearly tied to his passionate belief in partnerships with a wide array of institutions. Believing strongly in the importance of participating in the public dialogue about education, Superintendent Cirone regularly contributed op-ed columns to all county newspapers, daily and weekly radio commentaries for six radio stations, and hosted four television shows. Through his *Talking with Teachers* program and the Teachers Network project he was a consistent and outspoken champion of teachers.

His innumerable accomplishments and successes have been acknowledged with awards from a very long list of organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League’s Distinguished Community Service Award, the California State PTA’s Honorary Service Award, the Santa Barbara

Foundation's Man of the Year, the *Santa Barbara News Press* Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Association of California School Administrators awards as Regional Superintendent of the Year and the state Ferd Kiesel Distinguished Service award.

He has also served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Santa Barbara Community Foundation, the National Teachers Network, The First Five Commission, the Fighting Back Against Alcohol and Drug Task Force, the National Commission for Learning and Citizenship, a program of the Education Commission of the States, and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation. Superintendent Cirone was invited to participate in the White House Summit on Children and Families and in a White House dialogue on national standards and testing. He has been a leader and passionate advocate for education, children, and families.

Deputy Superintendent Susan Salcido, who will become county superintendent of schools July 1, is a homegrown success story. She grew up in Santa Maria, going to Santa Maria-Bonita schools, Santa Maria High School, and then UCSB, where she majored in English and then earned her master's degree in education. She began teaching at Dos Pueblos High School, while earning an administrative credential at Cal Lutheran, and subsequently served as assistant principal of San Marcos High School and principal of Santa Barbara Junior High School.

At the Santa Barbara County Education Office, she worked as director of secondary support services, assistant superintendent for instructional services, and then deputy superintendent. In this current position she has been responsible for overseeing all the internal operations of the office, the services provided to the 20 school districts the office serves countywide, partnerships with the business and nonprofit communities, and public communications, as well as providing support and leadership to statewide committees and projects.

She was appointed by the California State Board of Education to serve on the California Practitioner's Advisory Board. She represents ACSA's Region 13 by serving on the statewide curriculum, instruction, and accountability committee, as well as on the ACSA charter board. She was recently named the ACSA region's Administrator of the Year for serving in her capacity at the county education office, and is currently enrolled in the USC doctoral program at the Rossier School of Education, where she is focusing on organization change, leadership, and student equity.

In selecting Deputy Superintendent Salcido to become county superintendent of schools upon the retirement of Bill Cirone, the board acknowledged her skills as a seasoned professional who shares the vision and understands the culture of the organization, and who will also serve as a change agent and bring fresh ideas to the position — the perfect combination of continuity and forward motion. She knows the office, the school districts, the community groups, and family issues and will be able to begin immediately to carry forward the mission of the office.

Further information is available by calling the county superintendent's office at 964-4711.

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