



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Shasta County Education Chief to Lead CCEE

The [California Collaborative for Educational Excellence](#)'s governing board today appointed veteran educator [Tom Armelino](#) – who has held top leadership posts at the local, state and national level — as incoming executive director.



Armelino, 57, will replace [Dr. Carl Cohn](#), who announced his retirement earlier this year.

“We are delighted to have Tom join as our next executive director,” said [CCEE Board Chair Sue Burr](#). “His exemplary background as both a district and county superintendent, coupled with his state and national leadership roles, make him uniquely qualified to head our organization.”

Armelino is currently executive director of the [National Association of School Superintendents](#). He began his career in public schools 32 years ago as a language arts teacher at a high-poverty middle school. His skill in improving student learning led him to local leadership roles including elementary school principal and district superintendent.

For 11 years, Armelino served as superintendent of the [Shasta County Office of Education](#). During his tenure, he was honored with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association's Champion Award.

Armelino is also the past president of the Association of California School Administrators, former chair of California's Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team and member of Governor Brown's "Kitchen Cabinet" team of trusted education advisors.

“I am honored and excited to serve on behalf of the board of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence,” Armelino said, adding that he looks forward to joining an agency that is “agile, nimble and willing to do whatever it takes to help school districts, charter schools and county offices meet the challenges locally to help students succeed.”

The CCEE was created in 2013 as part of California’s Local Control Funding Formula, which changed the way public schools are funded, evaluated and supported. Along with county offices of education and the California Department of Education, CCEE provides assistance to school districts and charter schools through the new Statewide System of Support. The system is aimed at empowering local education communities to overcome obstacles to student learning. The system is different from past accountability and support models that sanctioned – rather than supported — struggling districts.

“With an accountability system built around local control,” Armelino said, “we have an opportunity to reverse course from an ineffective reliance on telling districts what to do to a new set of approaches built around collaboration and purposefully building ‘relational trust’ with our state and county partners and other important stakeholders.”

Armelino said he hopes to build on the legacy of Dr. Cohn, former superintendent of Long Beach and San Diego school districts and CCEE’s first-ever executive director. Dr. Cohn played an important role in establishing the CCEE as an agency that studies and honors local education landscapes and is responsive to local needs.

“We wish Dr. Cohn happy travels and good health in his well-deserved retirement,” Burr said. “We were honored to have him serve as the inaugural executive director of our new organization.”

In Shasta County, Armelino focused on building trusting relationships between the county office of education and school districts within the county. He said he plans to bring that experience in fostering collaboration to his new post.

“I believe my greatest strength is to build teams that are collaborative in nature,” he said.

ABOUT THE CCEE

The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence is a state agency created in 2013 under California’s groundbreaking Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). We offer personalized, immediate, and evidence-based support to county offices of education, school districts, and charter schools so they can take ownership in continually improving learning for all students.