

## Fun Facts About MATT J. NAVO

What would you title your biography?

**How to Learn From Failure**

Do you have an obscure talent?

**Taxidermy**

What is your favorite quote from a TV show or movie?

**"It's time to kick the tires and light the fires!" - Top Gun 2**

What is one thing that's still on your bucket list?

**Flying a plane**

What was the last book you read?

**The Education We Need For a Future We Can't Predict by Thomas Hatch**

What is one thing you're deeply grateful for right now?

**Family**

## RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE LEARNING

- [CCEE's Playbook for Accelerating Learning \(PAL\) - NEW!](#)
- [CCEE's Field Guide - Accelerating Learning](#)
- [Developing & Implementing a Learning Acceleration Plan](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD

- CCEE Newsletter (Sept. 2021) - Leveraging the System of Support to Promote Literacy

## Introducing Matt J. Navo, CCEE's New Executive Director



Dorcas Kong, Senior Specialist, interviewed CCEE's new Executive Director, Matt J. Navo, about how he plans to lead CCEE in its efforts to accelerate learning and advance equitable outcomes for all students. *Please note that the interview was edited for clarity and length. Click [here](#) for the full interview with CCEE's new Executive Director, Matt Navo.*

**In the fall, LEAs will be addressing the learning gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on your experiences, do you have any best practices or lessons learned you would like to share with LEAs?**

**Navo:** No matter how we talk about it, at a systems level, it all comes down to the interaction between a teacher and student. It doesn't matter if the state curates a great plan to accelerate learning unless it translates to a change, interaction, innovation, or redesign in how teachers help students acquire the learning they need. So we have to speak about accelerated learning in a way that clearly paints a picture of what we are asking the system to do differently in thinking about teaching and learning and those teacher-student interactions. What are we asking [teachers] to do? What do [students] need to know and be able to do? How does the system help them do that? The closer we are to the boots on the ground, the better off we are.

**Accelerated learning reframes the way we think about getting students to grade-level. What are some considerations for LEAs to keep in mind?**

**Navo:** Accelerating learning is not a new thing for us. It should have always been a part of the equation. Students who are struggling cannot be achieving at the same rate as everybody else. The gap will always exist. Teachers will ask, "Why are we talking about this now? This is what we do." So what is it that we need to do differently? It comes down to a number of nuances in a school system. Do we have a high-quality instructional framework that we're using across our system? Are we using formative assessments on a frequent basis to assess where students are? Are we going to adapt the scope, sequence, and pace to review items more deeply? All those nuances come down to the broader question — What is it that systems highly focused on teaching and learning do?

**How might LEA leaders engage their teams in accelerating learning to ensure understanding and buy-in from across the organization?**

**Navo:** In systems work, there's a theory called being on the edge of the inside. What this means is that you can often be on the edge of the inside without being on the inside. The analogy is, let's say you're driving across the Bay Bridge to go into San Francisco at night and you see these beautiful lights in the city. It gives you this euphoria of going into something that's going to be magical and beautiful but when you get into the alleys of the city, they look really different than the illusion you saw.

At the National Center for Systems Improvement (NCSI), we would remind state-level leaders that just because they did something, it doesn't mean that it was translated into the right work. Oftentimes, they're seeing an illusion. So as a leader, the only way to get off the edge of the inside is to fight that mentality and get into the alleys to see what's happening. It's the same thing for accelerated learning. If we don't tap the user's perspective, we will be sitting on the edge of the inside for a long time.

## How do you see CCEE leading the work as a lead state agency to accelerate learning and advance equitable outcomes for students?

**Navo:** When you're talking about the system, somebody has to build the capacity of the capacity builders. CCEE can curate the experts to help meet the needs of county offices and LEAs. It's about coordinating across the system to share the research and development around what's working and what's not working. What are schools and county offices doing to accelerate learning? What are the evidence-based interventions that they're using? How are they using them? What should we be able to highlight across the state for what is and isn't working? Where should LEAs invest their resources? How can they receive additional support? That's something that CCEE is incredibly effective at doing and something we must continue to support.

## Shifting Our Efforts From Remediation to Acceleration



By Sujie Shin, Deputy Executive Director, CCEE

All throughout the previous year, we held our collective breaths in hope for a "return to normal," while recognizing that whatever we returned to would look very different. As school starts this fall, after a year of interrupted learning imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the return to school is one that is overshadowed by the learning gaps that our students are experiencing. The stresses and inconsistencies of remote and hybrid learning have increased the demands placed on families and students during the learning process, and our students are returning with greater gaps in learning acquisition than ever.

While summer learning loss is always a factor in our back-to-school planning, this year, it is imperative that we define a concrete plan to assess the needs of our students. We need to build on what we know about the best conditions for learning and rethink the way in which we support students' learning recovery. The question we should be asking is, *how do we accelerate the pace of learning in order to help our students access grade level content?* This doesn't mean running through all of the missed skills and concepts in less time. Instead, the [concept of accelerating learning](#) asks us to identify and support the acquisition of key concepts and skills that are needed to access grade level content.

Educators have always experienced and stepped up to the challenge of how to best tailor instruction to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. With our partners at Copernicus Solutions, CCEE is proud to launch the [Playbook for Accelerating Learning \(PAL\)](#), our latest resource in our series of playbooks to support instructional teams plan for, implement, and refine their strategies to ensure student success in schools. The PAL reviews current research on how best to improve student outcomes, lays out [models](#) that practitioners can use to accelerate learning in their systems, proposes ways in which they can [plan with their teams](#) in the pursuit of such goals, envisions how their efforts may take place [during and beyond the school day](#), and suggests ways in which LEAs can leverage [community-based organizations](#) and [engage families](#) as partners in the work.

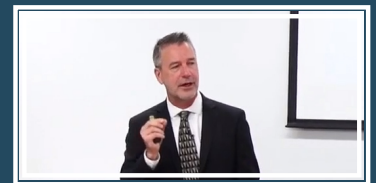
By making these resources available in a concise and actionable format, CCEE hopes to assist instructional leaders in California shorten their preparation period for accelerating learning and promoting the joyful and successful future we envision and deem possible for all our students.

Click [here](#) to read Sujie's full article.

## Thank You!

It is a bittersweet time for CCEE, as previous Executive Director Tom Armelino transitions out of the role he has held since 2018.

We want to thank Tom for his leadership, service, dedication, and commitment to CCEE and its efforts to advance equitable outcomes for all students in California.



### ABOUT THE CCEE

CCEE is a statewide agency designed to help deliver on California's promise of a quality, equitable education for every student.

### CCEE GOVERNING BOARD

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