

THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT LEADERS

Dear Parents,

Our student leaders have been presented with an outstanding educational leadership opportunity presented by CASL, the California Association of Student Leaders. CASL is an organization that provides its student members with the leadership skills necessary to develop, implement, and evaluate co-curricular programs on their own campuses. It is the intention of CASL to provide assistance to developing leaders with integrity and ethical decision-making skills, so they may be active participants at the local, state and national levels. CASL and its parent organization, The California Association of Directors of Activities, work side by side in their commitment to training and providing opportunities for students to be effective leaders. All schools which are members of CADA are also members of CASL.

This year, CASL will be holding its annual state conference at the DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario, CA from April 5th—April 7th (middle school) and April 7th—9th (high school). This conference brings together top student leaders from around California for two and a half days of motivational, inspirational, and educational leadership education and training. The weekend agenda includes student discussion panels, three general sessions, 25 student-led workshops, and specialized sessions for middle school/high school leaders, being a part of the CASL State Service Learning Program, and social activities that promote the interaction of students from across the state. Over 2,300 students were a part of the 2017 event in Northern California.

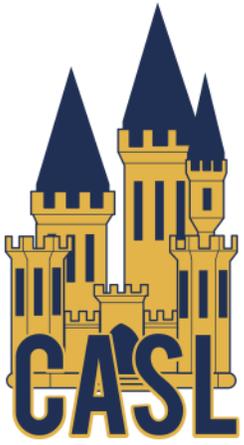
When asked about his first CASL experience, past CASL State President Jamal Edwards said,

“For me CASL provided the leadership life lessons that I needed. I was able to directly take the messages from the speakers and workshops and apply them to myself as a leader. I also remember hearing the student board members speak, and wanting to possess the strong leadership qualities they had. In addition, CASL sparked the passion I needed to be able to believe in myself. I wouldn’t be the leader I am today without CASL. It has completely changed my perspectives on student empowerment, integrity, and working with others. I cannot adequately express just how relevant attending my first conference has been to my leadership development.”

Nicole Nordstrom, the 2014 CASL State President, commented on the service learning program – just one of the many student-led educational opportunities offered at the convention.

“The service project was very significant to me because it inspired me to make a difference on my campus. It encouraged me to get involved with something bigger than myself or my school and encouraged me to broaden my horizons. It opened my eyes and my heart to the world. Furthermore, it encouraged me to involve myself in something relevant by bringing the project back to my school. This also allowed me to spread the importance of global awareness and activism on my campus – to students who did not attend.”

Allison Gadeke, a veteran middle school activities director, commented on the effect that CASL has had upon her students.



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“My students have attended CASL for the past fourteen years. After participating in our first conference, I was hooked! It inspired my students to put an end to bullying and to improve our campus climate. It also encouraged them to be the best leaders they could be. In addition, it awakened a civic responsibility in them to improve their world. The power of learning these lessons from their peers cannot be underestimated. I cannot speak highly enough about this organization and the level of professionalism that is consistently maintained. I am truly impressed and feel that this is the most valuable leadership training my students have ever experienced.”

Parent Dr. Albert Huang, a recent conference attendee sent his comments to his daughter’s school superintendent:

“A few weeks ago, my daughter attended the CASL Conference, along with 14 other Leadership Students. As a professor, I have attended numerous professional conferences in the past. The CASL Conference is one of the best conferences I have ever attended. It was well planned and executed. The amount of hard work and dedication put in by the organizers, teachers, and student leaders was evident in every detail. I was immediately impressed by the quality of the program, publications, speakers, presentations, and numerous activities that were both entertaining and educational for over 2,000 students who participated in the conference. What also impressed me was the cost. Amazingly, students paid only a registration fee to cover everything, including nice hotels, speakers, t-shirts, bus rides and several meals. I have no doubt that the 15 students who were fortunate to attend the conference will remember this experience of the rest of their lives. This is the kind of experiential learning that will have an impact on our future leaders.”

Sandra Kurland, in her address to the conference attendees last year remarked,

“It is my hope you leave the conference with the belief you truly can leave your campuses better than you found them with your attitude, guidance, and actions; understanding leadership is about serving others. We are gathered together here to learn from one another, to benefit as leaders for our schools, and although each one of us is uniquely different in background, interests, and persona, we all share a passion to lead.”

As you can see, the people involved with this organization are committed to one thing – providing outstanding leadership education for the students of California. We are excited to be participating in this year’s conference as this three day training will be action packed with solid educational opportunities. We hope that your child will participate in this life changing experience. The CASL web site can provide more information if you are interested. It is located at www.casl1.org. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Advisor