



January 30, 2013

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*President*  
**ANNA WILLIAMS**

*President-Elect*  
**JOAN KERR**

*Secretary*  
**DANA M. REUPERT**

*Treasurer*  
**JUDITH J. ROSEBERRY**

*Parent Representatives Chair*  
**MARIE THORNSBERRY**

*Educator Representatives Chair*  
**MARYANNA GRAY**

*Past President*  
**DEBORAH HAZELTON**

*Executive Director*  
**SUSAN SEAMONS**

### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

*Bay Area*  
**ANN R. SMITH**  
**KATE SPRAGUE**

*Capitol*  
**BARBARA BRANCH**  
**KARLETTE PORTER**

*Joshua Tree*  
**KRISTA LANDGRAF**  
**ABIGAIL MEDINA**

*Mission*  
**JESSICA MANZONE**  
**CHRISTINA DESIDERIO**

*Orange*  
**KRISA MULLER**  
**MARBELL GOMEZ-DAVIDSON**

*Pacific*  
**ROBERT WAGGONER**  
**GINA DANLEY**

*Palomar*  
**SUE ANN BUSSEY**  
**MISHA LUKER**

*Redwood*  
**KATHY ALEXANDER**  
**KAREN LITTELL**

*San Joaquin*  
**ERIKA TINDELL**  
**JULEE ADAMS**

*Santa Lucia*  
**LYN CAVANAGH-OLSON**  
**NEETA GARIMELLA**

### ADVISORY BOARD

**DEDE ALPERT**  
*California State Assembly, 1991-2004*

**BARBARA CLARK**  
*California State University Los Angeles*

**MICHAEL FLACHMANN**  
*California State University Bakersfield*

**SANDRA KAPLAN**  
*University of Southern California*

**TED LEMPert**  
*Children Now*

**DANIEL PETERS**  
*Summit Center*

**JACK O'CONNELL**  
*Capitol Advisors Group, LLC*

Ms. Mary Boyle  
Western Placer Unified School District  
600 Sixth Street, Suite 400  
Lincoln, CA 95648

Dear Mary Boyle:


It is with pleasure that California Association for the Gifted recognizes Western Place Unified School District for its exemplary program for gifted students. The award has been developed to support the continued efforts by school districts to provide high quality education services to gifted and talented students in relationship to the adopted GATE Standards according to AB 2313 and the criteria stipulated by CAG.

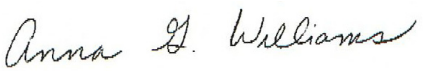
For the last 51 years, the California Association for the Gifted has been the major advocacy organization promoting the education of gifted and talented students. It has been instrumental in its advocacy efforts to define legislation, offer continued professional development to educator, parents and students, and collaborate with other organizations to uphold the quality of educations for all of California's students.

In an era when the fiscal resources for education are not commensurate to the needs of our students, when there is concern for academic achievement that sometimes ignores the needs of gifted and talented students, when educators and policy makers believe that "gifted students can make it on their own" (an old adage that is not accurate), and when individuals believe that giftedness is not found in all cultural linguistic, and economic groups; it is essential that we honor school districts and schools that have not adhered to these myths and have continued educating gifted and talented students. After visiting your district, it is clear that yours is just such a district, and we are pleased to honor you with our Five Star Gifted and Talented School Program Award.

Western Placer Unified School District has developed a GATE program over the past five years setting up self contained gifted classes at the elementary level, gifted cluster classes at most elementary schools as well as the 12 Bridges Middle School and the Performing Arts Academy for grades 7-8. Teachers and parents value the program and understand the components of differentiation. The Administration supports maintaining the program and providing differentiation training for more of it's teachers. Mary Boyle, Deputy Superintendent, oversees the program and is open to new ideas of GATE training. We recommend this district K-8 for the Five Star Award as an emergent district committed to identification and service of their GATE students and high performing students.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra Kaplan, Chair, Education Committee

  
Anna Williams, CAG President