



## CONTACT



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13722 Killarney Dr., Madera

## EDUCATION

### DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION

Educational Leadership  
University of La Verne  
May 2000

### MASTER'S DEGREE

Preliminary and Clear  
Administrative Services Credentials  
May 1995

Educational Administration and  
Supervision, Fresno State  
May 1994

Language Development Specialist  
Credential  
May 1992

Multiple Subjects Teaching  
Credential  
May 1990

### BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Liberal Studies, Fresno State  
December 1989

## EXPERTISE

- Wise, effective and ethical leadership
- Creative thinker with strong track record in gaining consensus to generate positive solutions and outcomes
- Powerful interpersonal skills and ability to work with ethnically, culturally and socio-economically diverse groups
- Proven skills in fiscal management, human resources management, policy work, marketing, public relations, business and community engagement, program design, quality assurance and public speaking
- Experienced fundraiser including public bond campaigns

# M I C H E L E

## Cantwell-Copher, Ed.D.

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Experienced educational administrator and systems thinker with pioneering vision and skills in leadership as evidenced by successful tenures in Clovis Unified School District, Central Unified School District, State Center Community College District, and the Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools.

## PROFESSIONAL MEDIA ASSETS

- Served as a panelist on [NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt](#), 2020
- [EECU Member Spotlight](#) feature, Winter 2020
- Provide dialogue on numerous [Education Matters](#) segments
- Presentation to Rotary Club of Fresno, [Focus on Our Children](#), 2019
- [The Foundation @ FCOE](#) Named Non Profit of the Year, 2018
- [State of the Valley Health Forum](#) guest speaker, 2016

## PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Contributor to the Fresno DRIVE community investment plan, 2019
- Contributor to the leadership of the Cradle 2 Career community impact work, networked nationally with STRIVETogether, 2018
- Selected Lead national Grad Nation Summit convener, 2015
- Design Team co-lead on the Birth through Third Grade Challenge, 2014
- Named Community Hero, CSUF Health & Human Services, 2011
- Leadership team member Central Valley Children's Agenda, 2010
- Named a Top 10 Business Professional Woman of the Year, 2006
- Led research, organization, and execution of numerous school, district, and county initiatives such as transitioning district schools from year-round to a traditional schedule; Transitional Kindergarten; KSEP Implementation; and Innovation Grants
- Successfully launched the Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan, 2009
- Central Valley Educational Leaders Institute Exemplary Practices Conference Committee member since 2007
- Launched and managed The Foundation @ FCOE and Foundation for Central Schools; managed successful year-end financial audits
- Regularly awarded winning business partners for the Fresno County Business/Education Award
- Directed the organization and promotional activities to realize Central's successful \$40 million school bond campaign and Fresno City College capital campaign project to restore the Old Administration Building
- Successfully opened a new elementary school, which became one of Central's first California State Distinguished Schools
- Wrote three successful applications to the California Department of Education for California Distinguished Schools Award
- Reorganized/updated the district board policies and administrative regulations
- Trained in Interest Based Bargaining

## EXPERIENCE

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### Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Publicly Elected | January 2023-Present

#### Fresno County Superintendent of Schools | July 2008-December 2022

##### Administrator, Educational Leadership and Development | Executive Director, The Foundation @ FCOE

- Leadership responsibilities for the Departments of Early Care and Education, Student Intervention and Prevention, Special Projects, Cradle to Career Integrated Data System as well as the Foundation, P-16, Business Compact, and various community relations.
- Led the charge of forming The Foundation @ FCOE (a 501C3) the fundraising arm of FCSS. The mission of the Foundation is to build and leverage business and education relationships to develop financial sustainability for student academic programs and events in Fresno County schools.
- Led the philanthropic efforts to build and enhance arts education in schools.
- Community leader, systems thinker, and liaison with various influential people/programs/issues including Fresno C2C, County Departments, CBOs, and the governance and philanthropic hubs of the county.

#### State Center Community College District Foundation | July 2006-June 2008

##### Executive Director

- Successfully transitioned to a 20-year established, fully functioning foundation with \$12 million in assets.
- Conducted a comprehensive fund development program, organized annual giving, major gifts, and planned giving.
- Provided leadership in conjunction with the Board of Directors.
- Nurtured relationships with donor base of approximately 1,500 individuals, businesses, and foundations
- Administered fiscal oversight.
- Conducted marketing and outreach and led capital campaign.

#### Central Unified School District | April 1997-June 2006

##### Assistant Superintendent K-12 and Adult Schools

- Supported and monitored the delivery of educational programs at all district school sites including 12 elementary, 2 middle, 2 high, 1 continuation, and 1 adult school.
- Oversaw curriculum, staff development, evaluation, testing assessment, personnel and community issues, restructuring, program innovations and student performance.
- Supervised and directed principals in the development of plans to meet identified school performance targets.
- Other duties as assigned included community liaison work, coordinator of programs and committees, as well as bond measure campaign management.

##### Executive Director of the Foundation for Central Schools (concurrent)

- Researched and launched the nonprofit 501(c)(3) fundraising arm of the district.
- Conducted a comprehensive fund development program, organized annual giving, major gifts, and planned giving through solicitation. Provided leadership with Board of Directors.
- Administered fiscal oversight.
- Conducted community relations and designed website.

##### Director of Elementary Education

- Led and monitored the delivery of educational programs at all district elementary school sites.
- Direct supervision of principals.

##### Assistant to the Superintendent/Director of Public Information

- Assisted the superintendent of general operations with a particular emphasis in public relations including media, press, community and parent relations.
- Networked with press and radio/television stations, as well as the business, political, and non-profit community.
- Served as the compliance and complaint officer.

Central Unified School District (cont.)

Principal, Norman Liddell Elementary School

- Opened new school with the coordination of the Business, Instruction and Personnel Departments.
- Hired all staff, organized curriculum services, coordinated instruction, managed budget, investigated innovative programs in literacy, early academic interventions, technology, etc.
- Supervised all staff, planned staff development, promoted vision and goals of the school.
- Established positive parent relations and organized successful parent groups.

Vice Principal, Madison Elementary School

Clovis Unified School District | August 1990-April 1997

Guidance Instruction Specialist, Clark Intermediate School 7/96 - 2/97

Guidance Instruction Specialist, Gettysburg Elementary School 7/94-6/96

Principal, Demonstration Summer Learning Academy summers 94 and 95

Teacher, Sierra Vista Elementary School 7/93 - 6/94

Teacher, Jefferson Elementary School 7/89 - 6/93

Summer School Teacher, Clovis West High School summers 90 - 93

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/HONOR/AFFILIATIONS**

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Since 2006	Rotary Club of Fresno, Board of Directors 2009 - 2011, 2013 - 2015
Since 2010	Association of Fundraising Professionals
2010-2015	University High School Board of Directors
2008-2012	Board of Directors, Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention
Since 2004	Board of Directors, Highway City Dev. Foundation, Fresno, CA
2001-2006	Association of California School Administrators
Since 2003	Steering Committee, Fresno Business-Education Compact
Since 1996	Judge, Academic Decathlon, California State University, Fresno
2005	Fresno County Administrator of the Year finalist
2005	Central Unified School District Administrator of the Year
2003	Member Leadership Fresno, Class XIX, Fresno, CA
2000-2004	Board of Directors, Marjaree Mason Center, 2004 President-Elect
2001	"10" Fulfilling the Promise Award, Valley League of Schools
2000	Graduated, Doctorate with Distinction, University of La Verne
1997	Fresno City/County Commission on the Status of Women