



On behalf of the SVUSD Board of Education and myself, I would like to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year! I have had the honor of being your Superintendent for the past 4 months and as many of you know, I started in SVUSD as a teacher. It is a privilege to return home and work as a team with our stakeholders to take our students to new heights.

Since returning in April, I visited each school and saw student engagement, the use of integrated technology, and teachers providing the best possible learning environment for students. Our teachers collaborate to meet the needs of all students through the co-teaching model and I visited many of the different Career Technical Education (CTE) classes that provide real world experiences for secondary students. It was a great way to start back in SVUSD. I also had the opportunity to meet many of our families and community members at the Meet and Greet hosted by the Board of Education in May. The commitment of our community to support successful schools is one of SVUSD's many strengths.

SVUSD had many outstanding celebrations in the 2016-17 school year to highlight how "Saddleback Shines" including a 95.7% graduation rate. We celebrated 122 International Baccalaureate graduates, 7 National Merit Finalists, 32 Dual Immersion graduates from Laguna Hills High School, and Silverado High School had the largest graduating class, since opening their doors, with 107 graduates. Glen Yermo Elementary earned the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Award and La Paz Intermediate earned the 2017 California Gold Ribbon Award.

Serrano teacher and Peer Assistance Leader (PAL) Advisor, Kassie Valenti, was named PAL Advisor of the Year, and Montevideo teacher, Jaime Bennett, was named Educator of the Year by the Down Syndrome Association of Orange County.

In the performing arts, Trabuco Hills High School's Marching Band was selected to represent California at the Fourth of July Parade in Washington D.C. and Mission Viejo High School's "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*" was named the Best Musical of the Year as well as being recognized as the best Orchestra of the Year.

Continuing our excellence in athletics, we brought home 14 League titles district wide and 4 CIF Championship titles, including Boys' Soccer and Baseball at El Toro High School, Boys' Track and Field at Mission Viejo High School, and Wrestling at Trabuco Hills High School. El Toro High School was also named one of the most spirited high schools in America!

During the summer, I was excited to see staff participating in extensive Professional Development opportunities taking place this summer such as Instructional Rounds trainings,

OCDE STEM Summer Institute, Blended Learning trainings, social science framework committees and many different math and NGSS trainings. The ELD Summer Enrichment Program for students was truly spectacular as well!

When I spoke with our community and staff, I heard the frequent requests for a central vision and to that end, SV Innovates was created. SV Innovates focuses on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and developing innovative practices that create successful students. Here are some examples that I saw from the walkthroughs in SVUSD this spring:

1. Intentional Lesson Design- Teachers plan lessons intentionally to produce student learning. For example, small group instruction, collaborative grouping, and more student talk time than teacher talk time.
2. Engaging Strategies- This includes more hands-on learning, the use of embedded instructional technology, and including strategies that have all students answer questions each time instead of only using hand-raising to gather responses.
3. Innovation- What makes each school special? Is it a special innovative program? Is it a STEM lab with Next Generation Science Standards included? Our SVUSD schools are special and are ready to take their programs to the next level.

One of the many strengths of our district is the strong community partnership between parents and schools. This is evident from robust Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO), booster groups, advisory councils, and the multitude of other volunteer groups that parents participate in for the benefit of all students. I would like continue to strengthen and build on this network by welcoming parents to join us as part of SV Innovates.

I know that SV Innovates, and it is because of our outstanding stakeholders. Staff, administrators, and our school district departments are ready to help us all embark on this journey together and I know that our greatest inspiration will ultimately come from the daily magic that happens in the classroom as students and teachers dive deeper into instruction and take risks with teaching and learning. I am looking forward to an incredible 2017-18!

Crystal Turner, Ed.D.