

Brett Barley, Esq.

Delano, CA

CALIFORNIA BAR NUMBER: 267891

EXPERIENCE:

Wonderful College Prep Academy, Delano, CA

August 2018 to Present

Superintendent

Wonderful College Prep Academy (WCPA) is a free public charter school serving 1,750 kindergarten through 12th grade students. 90% of students are eligible for free or reduce price lunch and, depending on the school, up to 96% are English learners. WCPA high school students perform in the top two of all Kern County high schools for English Language Arts and top five in Mathematics despite having much higher than average poverty and English learner rates. WCPA offers longer school days and school years to help prepare students for college. 100% of the 2018 graduating class is attending college or a work fellowship, with 88% enrolled in four-year universities. One-third of the 2018 graduating class earned an Associate of Science degree while in high school. WCPA offers small class sizes with a two teacher per class model in elementary English and Math bringing student/teacher ratios down to 12.5 to 1. In High School, WCPA offers two early college pathways: Liberal Arts or Agriculture Prep. Students earn up to two years of college credit prior to entering a four-year university. WCPA also offers Art, Music, Physical Education, hands-on STEM, and Health and Wellness opportunities to all students.

Nevada Department of Education, Carson City, NV

April 2016 to August 2018

Deputy State Superintendent, Student Achievement

Led the Department's Student Achievement Division on behalf of Nevada's 475,000 students. Managed the Office of Student and School Support; Office of Standards and Instructional Support; Office of Early Learning and Development; Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning and Education Options; Office of Assessment Data and Accountability Management; and Office of Special Education. Administer and monitor state categorical funds and federal funds including Title I, III, IV, V, IDEA, WIOA, and Carl Perkins. Oversaw the implementation of 23 new programs and initiatives designed to improve student achievement. Supported the development of Nevada's Strategic Plan and Every Student Succeeds Act plan. Represented the Department at the State Board, legislature, stakeholder groups, and in schools and the community.

StudentsFirst (Now called 50CAN), Sacramento, CA

August 2012 to April 2016

Vice President

StudentsFirst is a grassroots membership and advocacy organization with over two million members across the country. StudentsFirst state teams are focused on passing high impact education legislation at state capitols and through the regulatory process. My role at StudentsFirst was to manage seventeen teams across the country and coordinate policy, communications, grassroots organizing, electoral, and fundraising strategies. Each state team varied in size but generally had an Executive Director, Policy Director, Communications Director, Outreach Director, Fund Development Director, Grassroots Organizers, and contract lobbyists. Through this oversight I managed a multi-million-dollar state team operations budget. During my tenure I helped StudentsFirst grow from six to eighteen states. My teams helped to pass more than 240 student-centered policies across the country, elect more than 200 pro-student elected officials, and engaged 2 million people to improve education opportunities for historically underserved students.

Silicon Valley Leadership Group, San Jose, CA

April 2010 to April 2012

Director of Education

Organizational lead on education policy at the local, state, and federal level. Prepared position papers and presented positions to the Board. Created advocacy materials for legislation the organization was supporting or opposing. Played a significant role in advocating for and passing numerous pieces of California education legislation, including, SB 1381 (Simitian), the Kindergarten Readiness Act. SB 1381 is the largest expansion of education services in California in a generation. Served as a key liaison between the business community; local school districts; county offices of education; school boards; and local, state, and federal elected officials. This included assisting with high quality charter expansion and ballot initiatives to fund education and health services for children. Oversaw Leadership Group operated summer training and professional development programs for teachers. Provided legal advice to 501c3 and 501c6 Leadership Group organizations. Co-lead on a multi-million capital campaign to build an Educare (a Buffett Early Childhood Funder early learning center) in San Jose.

Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, San Jose, CA

August 2009 to February 2010

Deputy District Attorney (Nov. 2009 – Feb. 2010) Post Bar Clerk (Aug. 2009 – Nov. 2009)

Member of the gang and juvenile units. Handled jurisdiction hearings, argued motions, conducted bench trials, and litigated restitution hearings. Crafted extradition documents and motions in a gang case with forty-eight co-defendants accused of drug trafficking and attempted murder. Wrote legal memorandum and spearheaded a research project on juvenile competency that was used to draft new juvenile competency protocol. As a result of that investigation the Santa Clara County Superior Court no longer incarcerates minors under the age of 13.

Alum Rock Union School District, San Jose, CA

July 2004 to July 2006

4th Grade Teacher, Teach For America Corps Member

Taught 4th Grade in an under-resourced school that served 100% Free/Reduced Lunch and 70% English Language Learner student population. Conducted extended day learning programs in math and English Language Arts. Oversaw significant academic growth – one and a half grade levels on average in English and Math -- over course of the 2004-05 and 2005-2006 academic school years. Wrote successful grant applications for student projects.

TRAINING:

University of Virginia, Darden School of Business and Curry School of Education, Partnership for Leaders in Education Program, 2016 to 2018

School Systems Leadership Fellowship, Class of 2017-2018

West Comprehensive Center, Community of Practice Member, 2016 to 2018

Council for Chief State School Officers, Community of Practice Member, 2016 to 2018

Chiefs for Change, Community of Practice Member, 2016 to 2018

Emerging Political Leaders Fellowship, Class of 2010-2011

EDUCATION:

University of San Diego School of Law, Juris Doctor awarded May 2009

Honors: CALI Award for Highest Grade in the Class – 2008

California Bar Foundation Public Interest Scholarship – 2008

University of San Diego Public Interest Scholarship – 2007, 2008

National Lawyers Guild Haywood Burns Scholarship – 2007

Activities: *International Law Journal*, Member and Comment Writer, August 2007 to May 2009

International Human Rights Law Society, President, August 2006 to May 2008

Public Interest Law Foundation, Vice President, August 2006 to May 2007

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, Class of 2004, BS in Communications, cum laude, GPA 3.61/4.0

Brett Barley, Esq.
Delano, CA

Dear Nevada State Board of Education Members:

I am passionate about serving Nevada students and believe that we have an opportunity to create a world class school system in Nevada. For the past several years I have worked with the State Board, community stakeholders, educators, and state and local decision makers to make the American Dream available to all Nevada students. We have had success but there is still much work to be done. I would be honored to have the opportunity to help Nevada build off its successes while continuing to innovate and refine our strategies so that every Nevada student has a high quality and equitable education.

Since leaving the Department this past fall I have been serving as the Superintendent of Wonderful College Prep Academy (WCPA). WCPA is a network of five, free public charter schools serving 1,750 Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade students in California's Central Valley. 90% of our students are eligible for free or reduce price lunch and, depending on the school, up to 96% are English learners. In this role I supervise our four principals, oversee our academic programs, manage school operations, lead our recruitment and retention strategies for students and staff, spearhead our state and federal grant making efforts, engage with our stakeholders and community, and work closely with our Board. This on-the-ground, in-school experience informs my understanding of how the state Department of Education can support students, families, teachers, principals, and superintendents.

At WCPA, our high school students perform in the top two of all Kern County high schools for English Language Arts and top five in Math despite having much higher than average poverty and English learner rates. WCPA offers a longer school day and year to help prepare students for college. 100% of the 2018 graduating class enrolled in college or started a work fellowship upon graduation, with 88% enrolled in four-year universities. In comparison, just 17% of San Joaquin Valley graduates enroll in a four-year college. For high school students, WCPA offers two early college pathways: Liberal Arts or Agriculture Prep. Students earn up to two years of college credit prior to entering a four-year university. One-third of the 2018 graduating class earned an Associate of Science degree while in high school.

In elementary, WCPA offers small class sizes with a two teacher per class model in English and Math. This model brings student/teacher ratios down to 12.5 to 1. WCPA also offers Art, Music, Physical Education, and hands-on STEM opportunities to all students K-12.

Our staff and students have access to a free school-based health clinic with both physical and mental health services and made from scratch breakfast and lunch. I also oversaw the approval of a significant salary increase for teachers at our most recent Board meeting. These are the types of conditions all teachers and students need to be successful.

I originally came to Nevada in 2016 to help implement a re-imagination of the state's education system that began in 2015. During the 2015 legislative session my team and I helped to pass a bi-partisan tax increase and approximately two dozen new education programs. I was excited then, as I am now, about the opportunity to update the state's funding formula to more adequately account for the needs of English learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and Special Education students.

As the Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement at the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) I oversaw the work of the Office of Student and School Support; Office of Standards and Instructional Support; Office of Early Learning and Development; Office of Career Readiness, Adult Education, and Education Options; Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management; and Office of Special Education on behalf of Nevada's 475,000 students. I worked with the offices listed above to implement these new laws, strategically award more than \$350 million in annual competitive state programs, oversee the state's use of federal Title funding, diversify the leadership of the Department to better reflect the diversity of our student population, and evolve the culture of the NDE from a compliance orientation to a support and collaboration mindset.

One of my proudest moments at the NDE was the development of our ESSA plan. We began working with staff and external stakeholders in May of 2016 and over the course of dozens of meetings developed a plan to make Nevada the fastest improving state in the nation. When stakeholder engagement for the ESSA plan began the Nevada community was skeptical that the process would be open and that their voices would truly be heard. After dozens of meetings and countless hours Nevada rallied behind the plan and the bold vision it outlined. Our stakeholders described the plan development process as the most thoughtful, open, and authentic experience they had ever had with a government agency. Our plan was the third highest rated in the country according to Bellwether Education and a national best practice for stakeholder engagement according to Partners for Each and Every Child.

I was also honored to play a role in the transformation of the high school experience. Our team applied for and received a \$2 million grant from the Council for Chief State School Officers and JP Morgan Chase to reimagine career readiness. Through this work we decommissioned obsolete Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and opened new pathways aligned to high wage, high growth industries. In partnership with the business community and our institutions of higher education we put students on a path to livable wage careers. Nevada now uses state and federal funds to pay only for coursework that will result in a credential recognized by industry.

To better prepare students for college we committed to offer more AP, IB, and Dual Credit courses than ever before. High poverty students have their test fees covered so that there are no barriers to students taking advanced coursework and obtaining college credit in high school. Nevada is now the fastest growing state in the nation for students enrolled in AP classes and scores of three or higher on AP exams. We also committed to offer more Dual Credit and STEM courses starting with computer science in every high school. Lastly, in 2015 Nevada began offering the ACT, for free, to all high school juniors. Because of this simple policy change we saw a seismic shift in the demographics of participating students on the college entry assessment.

Before moving across the Sierras I served as a Vice President at StudentsFirst where I built and managed teams in 17 states across the country tasked with passing laws that would improve educational opportunities for historically underserved students. In this role I oversaw a legislative agenda that included management of a multi-million-dollar budget. By working both in state capitols and with local school communities I learned how to communicate effectively with Governors, legislators, local elected officials, grasstop leaders, community organizations, parents, and students. During my time at StudentsFirst I helped to pass 240 pro-student policies and enlist 2 million Americans in a movement to provide every child with access to a great education. One of my big wins in California was helping to pass

the Local Control Funding Formula, which created additional funding weights for students in poverty, learning the English Language, and in foster care.

Prior to joining StudentsFirst I worked at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group as the Director of Education Policy. My education portfolio consisted of local, state, and national early childhood, K-12, and higher education issues on behalf of the biggest companies in Silicon Valley. I sat on numerous boards, wrote grants for education programs, and collaborated with CEOs. One of our biggest wins at the state legislature was passage of the Kindergarten Readiness Act, which created Transitional Kindergarten, the largest expansion of public education in a generation in California. In addition to local and state level policy I also worked on local bonds and parcel taxes to fund education and children's health efforts. I also oversaw summer training and professional development programs for teachers. Finally, I helped to draft the strategic plan for a \$16 million-dollar capital campaign to build an Educare -- a Buffett Early Childhood Fund sponsored birth through five school -- in an underserved community in San Jose.

I have been passionate about improving educational outcomes for students since I was a 4th Grade Teacher in San Jose. All of the students I taught qualified for Free or Reduced Lunch, seventy percent were learning the English language, and many more brought to school the side effects of living in a neighborhood that was not safe. Despite these challenges my students were able to grow a year and a half each year I was in the classroom.

I believe I would be an excellent fit for the Superintendent of Public Instruction role with the Nevada Department of Education. I have deep familiarity with the Department, Nevada's legislative and regulatory processes, and stakeholders across the state. I have experience leading successful education systems from classrooms to schools to the state department, managing large budgets and ensuring a high return on investment for funds, know how to build and lead high performing teams that are geographically dispersed, have a track record of developing and implementing successful strategic plans with broad stakeholder support, and have experience creating data informed continuous improvement systems. Due to these experiences I could hit the ground running on behalf of Nevada students.

I would be honored to continue our efforts to provide a high-quality education to all Nevada students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett Barley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brett Barley, Esq.
Superintendent Wonderful College Prep Academy

Reference List for Brett Barley

- Steve Canavero:** Former Nevada State Superintendent
Nevada Department of Education
Phone:
Email:
- Punam Mathur:** Executive Director
Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation
Phone:
Email:
- Dale Norton:** Superintendent
Nye County School District
Phone:
Email:
- John Vellardita:** Executive Director
Clark County Education Association (CCEA)
Phone:
E-Mail:
- Yvette Williams:** Founder and Chair
Clark County Black Caucus
Phone:
Email:
- Frank Woodbeck:** Executive Director, Workforce Development
Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)
Phone:
E-Mail: