



4031 FM 1463 Rd.
Suite 40-282
Katy, TX 77494
715.966.1688

For Immediate Release

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Dr. Mary Ann Dewan Honored by Association of Educational Service Agencies for Publication On Equity In Education

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Superintendent of the Santa Clara County Office of Education in San Jose, California, has received the 2021 E. Robert Stephens Award from the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs). The award was presented by John Bass, COO for AESAs at the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) fall membership meeting in San Francisco, California.

The award recognizes contributions that advance the understanding of regional educational agencies through research, writing and publications at the regional, state and national levels. Dewan was nominated for the award because of her role in the development of the *Ways 2 Equity Playbook*, which was released by the Santa Clara County Office of Education in 2020.

The publication is a guide designed to assist schools and districts with assessing and strengthening their efforts to achieve equity. It includes background on the challenge of equity as well as resources and strategies for targeting specific issues such as absenteeism, suspensions and student and family engagement. The publication focuses on issues faced by African American students, English language learners and students with disabilities.

Dewan was nominated by Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Agency, Lisa Lasky, Managing Director of the National Equity Project, and Sujie Shin, Deputy Executive Director of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.

In her nomination letter, Walters called the *Ways 2 Equity Playbook* an “impactful publication” that addresses “the most important educational challenge we have.” She also praised Dewan for continuing the effort to develop the publication despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

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