



For Immediate Release: October 7, 2019



Susan J. Clipperton

Opportunities, 1996-2019

On October 1, 2019, the Mojave Unified Board of Trustees approved Susan (“Suzi”) Clipperton as the new principal of the Mojave Adult School.

Susan began her career in education by applying for a clerk typist position at the local Regional Occupational Program (ROP) for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) office in Mojave during 1996. She did not intend to stay in education, but was looking for a break from self-employment until she decided what to do for a new career. At the time, she had no college education.

Later that year her supervisor needed to hire the Mojave High School (MHS) Career Advisor and Susan immediately said, “I want the position” and shortly thereafter she became the part-time career advisor. In an unusual move, she continued to work as a KCSOS employee for four hours a day while being “loaned” to the school for four hours a day. She assisted with Career Technical Education (CTE) and counseling.

Her high school supervisor was a seasoned counselor, and he gave her a variety of duties; working with students, doing simple academic guidance, college research and applications, financial aid and classroom presentations. It was a wonderful experience working with an effective, fruitful and friendly team, which pushed her to make the decision of beginning to earn a college education.

Working full time, she began to take night classes at Antelope Valley Community College and at Cerro Coso Community College while also earning her College Counseling certificate from UCLA. Seven years later, she had earned the necessary credits in order to transfer to Chapman University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology, again, continuing to work full time in the career center at MHS and at KCSOS. The next year she entered the University of La Verne where she earned her Master's Degree and a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential.

In the summer of 2009, she had to make a decision to work for either KCSOS or work for the Mojave Unified School District - she could no longer do both. That Summer, she began officially working for MUSD, finally full time at one place, as the Student Service Coordinator.

In ten years with the district, she has run the counseling program, the Renewable Energy Academy and the Career Technical Education department. She has written and managed the Perkins Grant, the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG), and the K12 SWP Grant, among a variety of others.

Seven years ago, California began an adult education conversation throughout the state. Susan was interested in the discussion and she applied for, and received, the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG), and became the district coordinator and advisor for the Mojave Adult School. Out of necessity, Susan applied at California State University Bakersfield in the fall of 2018, and earned her Administrative Credential in June 2019.

Susan has been married to Doug for 47 years, and they have five children, four daughters-in-law, and five spirited grandchildren. Doug is the reason Susan has been able to accomplish what she has because he has kept her in delicious soup and been her cheerleader.