

Denise M. Wickham, Ed.D., Consultant National Center for Executive Leadership and School Board Development

Areas of Expertise Team Building | Human Resources | Collective Bargaining Employee Discipline | Site Leadership | Advisor/Coach



Dr. Denise Wickham has been an educator for over thirty years, and currently serves as the Superintendent of Ceres Unified School District. She earned her doctorate from the University of Pacific in 2008, with the topic being Females in the Superintendency.

Dr. Wickham has earned the recognition of her peers, and has addressed audiences in her many areas of expertise, including instruction, student achievement, accountability, and personnel. She has also presented at many regional and statewide conferences on topics ranging from employee discipline, recruitment, and general leadership strategies. Under Dr. Wickham's leadership, as the principal of a high-poverty school, the Academic Performance Index increased over 300 points and the Similar Schools ranking grew from a 1 to a 10.

She has held multiple positions in education including that of a teacher, assistant principal, supervisor, director, deputy superintendent and currently superintendent.

Dr. Wickham has been recognized at the California State level in the area of personnel by receiving the Ray Curry Award in 2013, which is awarded by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) for outstanding personnel leadership. She has also received several awards from the Association of California School Administrators, including the state award for Professor of the Year in 2021, and the Bill Ullom Award, which annually singles school leaders who exemplify the best in positive, effective, professional service to children and youth.

Dr. Wickham serves her community through Soroptimist International and being a mentor to local high school students. She has been an Adjunct Professor for over ten years at California State University, teaching at both the Masters and Doctoral levels. Dr. Wickham is the product of a Portuguese immigrant family and, as a result, has a strong work ethic and continues to be passionate about the opportunities education can provide. She is particularly interested in supporting populations who must overcome the challenges of poverty, equity, language barriers, and limited resources.