

L. Russ Brawn



For more than two decades Mr. Brawn advocated for and worked toward the use of information technologies as support structures for education administration. After serving at San Jose USD he began to realize the vast potential of integrated systems having meaningful data shared among stakeholders at all education levels. Russ was fortunate to further this realization while working at WestEd, one of twelve federally chartered Regional Education Laboratories; that provides research, development and service through projects designed to satisfy immediate client needs, as well as to achieve sustainable impact within the K-PS community. Much of the results of that work was evidenced in building and directing California Student Information Services (CSIS).

Russ was a long-time CETPA member, having served on the Board of Directors for nineteen years, twice as President. Russ was an influential member, being the first to work in Sacramento on behalf of CETPA, advocating for school technology. His connections around the state set the seed for the recognized authority that the organization now is. In addition, Russ served on the Board when there were no employees, only volunteers. His dedication helped transform our conferences from small, informal events to well-known, respected professional development opportunities for California technologists. He was most proud of his work helping to launch CETPA's Chief Technology Officer certification program, believing it to be the organization's most sustaining accomplishment. Or was that the introduction of Board poker?

Russ has a talent for listening, really listening before giving his opinion. His low-key, respectful demeanor is topped only by his sense of humor. He knows when to lighten the mood and when to be serious and get things done. He loves great music, a well-aged bourbon, and his family.

