



apsea
asian pacific state employees association

2012 Symposium November 8, 2012



NAVIGATING LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES AND EEO IN A CHANGED WORLD

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES



Greetings All – My name is Rebekah Christensen. I started working with APSEA almost two years ago when I was invited to attend one of their sponsored leadership workshops. Right from that first training I was impressed with the diversity of committed professionals that were so willing to volunteer time and expertise to mentor others from all walks of life in furthering their professional leadership. Soon after that I began volunteering to APSEA. December of 2011 found me hosting the inaugural meeting for the Steering Committee of **Navigating Leadership Challenges and EEO in a Changed World**. This event is scheduled for November 8, 2012, from

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM at the CalPERS headquarters, 400 P Street, Sacramento.

As CEO of ORA Systems, Inc., I've spent 25+ years in private enterprise in the leadership of non-profit organizations and have led the development of many national training events. An emphasis across my career has been in the design of complex whole systems to resolve complicated societal problems – in economic development, finance, tech transfer, etc. I was particularly attracted to volunteer support to this event because the **"Changed World"** we are experiencing is not one where we can ever anticipate the pendulum swinging back to the way it used to be. The economy has forever shifted the foundation of our personal and professional worlds. At the same time, the technological virtual community that is our life today is one that has changed the very paradigm of how government communicates, interacts and conducts business with constituents. The same is equally true in constituent interactions with Government. Today we are far more "one world" than ever before – where a decade of technological advancement now occurs in the span of 3 to 4 years. We live in a state of constant change in both our personal and professional lives. To survive and thrive, we must learn to be as fluid and nimble as the "Changed World" that surrounds us, while sustaining an acute accuracy in the context of our decision-making and leadership of ourselves and others.

The event format is designed to provide an integrated (fluid - whole systems) perspective of government so speakers and attendees alike are able to see and experience the independent yet collaborative strength and contributions of all. At the same time, collectively the event reveals a panoramic view of government that exists beyond the "silos" of each agency and/or corporate speaker. A key focus in each of our three roundtable discussions – New Paradigms (tools and skills for a changed world) Secretaries Roundtable (mission critical challenges from the perspective of opportunities found) and EEO best practices will also feature the key leadership insights or philosophies that have guided their careers alongside thresholds of opportunity for rebuilding California.

The dynamics of change are profound and this event will focus support to the rapid transitioning that is occurring in government services and accountability in response to an ever-escalating virtual society where more than 95% of constituents own mobile technology and more than 50% are accessing government services via mobile devices 24/7. The "relaxed and interactive" environment of the event creates an atmosphere where real discussion can occur – between panelists and with our audience. I think the event will reveal a distinct depth and breadth spanning diverse perspectives of leadership and agencies that stand at the forefront of California's economy.

This past year of planning by our steering committee included the involvement of four interns where the cycle of learning went in both directions. I'm excited to close this letter with the "[leadership perspective](#)" of intern **Nicole Rowe** who received her BS from Howard University and her MS from USC in social work. It was fortifying for all of us to not only guide but to see the depth of potential these future leaders possess!

Sincerely,

Rebekah Christensen, Event Co-Chair
APSEA Board of Directors
CEO, ORA Systems, Inc.

Event links:

- [Event Press Release](#)
- [Event Brochure](#)
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- [Event Speakers and Overview](#)
- [Event Endorsements, Sponsors, etc.](#)
- [Event Newsletter – Leadership Perspectives](#)