



Michael Walsh Class of 2017

Mike graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1982 and had perfect attendance all four years. He wrestled his junior and senior years and was on the track and field team all four years, placing 3rd in the section finals as a senior. He also played football all four years and his class of 1982, was the first class to win the Victory Bell Game four straight years. Mike and his son, Jeremy Walsh, were the first father/son duo from LPHS to play in and win Bell games.

Mike was also very active in Associated Student Body (ASB) activities serving as freshman class president sophomore class vice-president and president, junior class president, and ASB president as a senior.

Following his high school graduation, he attended California State University, Chico (CSUC) for one year before going to Butte College and then earning his BA and MA degrees in Organizational Management and Organizational Leadership, respectively, from Ashford University.

Mike's career in education began in 1992 when he served as Drop-out Prevention Services Coordinator for Butte County Office of Education (BCOE). In 1995, he was Student Advocate for Bangor, Thermalito, and Palermo School Districts, where he identified high risk students and created plans to help them address their specific needs and goals. From 1998-2005, he was the Director of Youth Development Services, Odyssey Performance Enhancement Network and was responsible for the development and staffing of team building programs for school-aged participants.

Since the year 2000, Mike has been the Leadership Facilitator, California Association of Student Councils, where he conducts summer leadership camps for ASB officers throughout the State of California. In 2007, he added another dimension to his work and since then has been leadership facilitator for National Student Leadership Conference at University of California, Berkeley (Cal). The annual Career Exploration Camp is for students considering careers in medicine, engineering, and communication.

In 2005, after six years as the director of youth development programs for a teambuilding company, Mike co-founded and is CEO of his company Beacon Results. The company's mission is to facilitate processes that manage the desire for growth and change in organizations and individuals. Mike primarily works with school districts and non-profit organizations helping them develop and align their strategic plans.

From 1997-2010, in his spare time, Mike returned to his LPHS campus where he was the varsity assistant coach for both wrestling and track and field. He also served as the Executive Director of the Oroville Economic Development Corporation and completed a three year term as a member of the Butte Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

In 2010, he was elected to the Butte County Board of Education where he continues to serve and that year was also elected as a delegate to the California School Boards Association (CSBA). In 2011, he was appointed to the CSBA Board of Directors where he has served admirably on several committees including the Legislative Committee. He is currently the state president-elect and will assume the position of CSBA president in January of 2018.

In addition to his service to state school boards, Mike is also on three major committees of the National School Boards Association and has written and published multiple articles focused on equity and improved results for under-performing student groups for the County Boards of Education and CSBA

His current volunteer activities include working one day each semester at LPHS teaching history students how particular personality traits can be a predictor of behaviors in leaders. He also teaches the same class to Honors Engineering students at Cal.

Quote from a student who attended the National Student Leadership Conference on engineering at Cal, ***“When I first signed up for the program I had no idea what it would entail. Mr. Walsh, you made me take a step back, slow down, and really think things through. During our sessions with you, I tried to challenge myself to step out of my comfort zone and intentionally make things different for me. In my life, I have never had anyone challenge me the way you did and that exactly what I needed.”***