



Association of California School Administrators Region 18, Imperial County Charter

September 30, 2018

Re: Nomination for J. Todd Finnell to a seat representing the K-12 community on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)'s Board of Directors

Dear Sir or Madame:

Please allow me to nominate J. Todd Finnell to serve as a director for the Universal Service Administrative Company representing the K-12 community and schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to section 54.501 of the Commission's rules.

Todd Finnell currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools for Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), a role to which he was elected in 2014. Prior roles at ICOE include Assistant Superintendent of Technology Services, Chief Executive Officer of the California K-12 High Speed Network (K12HSN), Executive Director of TechSETS, Senior Director of Learning Technologies, and Teacher/Counselor in Alternative Education. The K12HSN is a program operated by ICOE under grant from California Department of Education which supports network access for school districts throughout California.

Dr. Finnell holds a Professional Clear Administrative Services Credential, a Pupil Personnel Services Credential, a Multiple Subject Professional Clear Teaching Credential, a certificate as a Certified Chief Technology Officer, and a certificate from the ACSA Personnel (HR) Administrators Academy. Dr. Finnell received his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) in 2014 and his Master of Arts (M.A.) in Education 1995.

In California, county offices of education serve as regional support agencies, much like Boards of Cooperative Educational Service (BOCES) in other states. Imperial County Office of Education operates an \$120+M annual budget and has 600+ employees. Dr. Finnell also possesses experience teaching in elementary classrooms, instructing university students in a teacher preparation program, and serving as Vice President for Student Services, Technology and Research for Imperial Community College District (2010-2014).

Relying on the experience gained at ICOE in forming and managing the Imperial Valley Telecommunications Authority – a joint powers authority-- (1999-current), Dr. Finnell led the ICOE's effort to win the role of administering the K12HSN from the California Department of Education in 2004. The program administers K-12's participation in the California Research and Education Network operated by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). Once awarded, in September 2004, Todd Finnell and the Imperial County Office of Education have led this important work on behalf of the California Department of Education effectively, both from a budgetary perspective and from a service delivery perspective.



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As is revealed by his success in county-wide and state-wide efforts, Dr. Finnell is skilled at working collaboratively across agencies. Dr. Finnell has received many awards including the Innovation in Technology Award from the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, the Exemplary Research and Practice Award from San Diego State University, the Brian L. Talbott Award for Innovative Technology and Collaboration, the Technology in Learning Leadership Award from CUE (formerly Computer Using Educators), and the Gigabit or Bust award from CENIC. He has served on the CENIC board, and the boards of multiple other "technology in education" organizations.

Todd Finnell has keynoted and presented on many topics including "EBS Deployments by Educators" at the National Educational Broadband Service Association conference and "Getting Technology Right: The Current Challenges and Innovations in Education Technology" for the California County Boards of Education Fall Conference.

The significant traits that make Todd Finnell the excellent leader that is include integrity, encompassing both honesty and competence, maintaining a vision for the future, and service-driven leadership. These qualities served the K12HSN program well as he built strong relationships with our counterparts at CENIC and amongst stakeholders in Sacramento. No less important than his other qualities, Dr. Finnell has a sincere concern for the welfare of individuals.

Dr. Finnell's motto, "Under-promise and over-deliver," is responsible for the California Department of Education repeatedly turning to Dr. Finnell, the K12HSN, and Imperial County Office of Education to take on new projects that required effective teams if they were to be successful. Todd Finnell is gifted in many areas. He thinks about implications of decisions and ponders the road far ahead of the immediate challenge. Most recently, the vision of Todd Finnell has resulted in efforts to close the homework gap for students in Imperial County. His technical skills are very strong. His soft skills are equally well-developed.

The benefits derived from the federal telecommunications subsidy programs by schools nationwide are critically important. Todd Finnell understands and cares about the role of these programs and their value to education. He also understands complex budgets, project implementation and the challenges of leading large staffs. He will make a superb member of the Board of Directors for the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Sincerely,

Imperial County Charter Board Representative