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AESA Honors Dr. Mary Ann Dewan with the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

In honor of Dr. Walter G. Turner, who chaired the original committee that established the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) and developed its vision, mission, and bylaws, the **Outstanding Individual Achievement Award** was created to recognize individuals making significant contributions to the advancement of regional educational programs. Dr. Turner served as AESAs's first Executive Director, and this prestigious award continues his legacy of leadership.

This year's recipient is **Dr. Mary Ann Dewan**, Superintendent of Santa Clara County. Dr. Dewan has been recognized by her peers statewide for her tireless and relentless efforts to support students with disabilities and promote equity for all children across California.

Dr. Dewan's leadership extends beyond Santa Clara County. She has held various leadership roles within the California County Superintendents organization, including serving on the Executive Committee, chairing the State & Federal Legislative Committee, and co-chairing the advisory group on equity and access for students with disabilities. Her work has been instrumental in the development and adoption of the organization's "Vision and Goals," which envision an ambitious role for county offices of education in supporting students with disabilities.

After a thorough review of numerous applications, and upon reading letters of support from her colleagues and state legislative leaders, AESAs's Executive Council determined that Dr. Dewan is an exemplary leader—not only for Santa Clara County but for the entire state of California. Her leadership, commitment, and vision make her exceptionally deserving of this national award.

About AESAs

The Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) is a national organization dedicated to supporting regional educational service agencies in their mission to improve educational opportunities and student outcomes. AESAs provides professional development, advocacy, and leadership support to its member agencies nationwide. For more information about AESAs and its programs, please visit <https://aesa.us>.