

**San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography**

**Name:** Irma Guzman Wagner

**Department:** Educational Leadership

**Academic Rank:** Professor/Dean of Education

**Year Retired:** 2004

**City of Residence:** San José



**Facebook Page or Website URL:**

**Birthplace:** Ventura, California

**Birth Year:** 1938

**Marital Status:** Divorced **Spouse or Partner's Name:**

**Children's Names:** Scott Timothy Wagner

**No. of Grandchildren:** 2 **No. of Great Grandchildren:**

<b>Colleges or Universities Attended:</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Degree</b>
San José State University	1961	B.A.
Claremont Graduate University	1976	M.A.
Claremont Graduate University	1976	Ph.D.

<b>Teaching Experience:</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
CSU Stanislaus	1995	2004
San José State University	1986	1995
University of La Verne	1975	1986

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### **Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):**

Chair, Department of School Management, University of La Verne

Associate Dean, College of Education, San José State University

Dean, College of Education, CSU Sanislaus

### **Selected Publications:**

Armstrong, W. and I. Guzman Wagner. "Leadership in Transition: The Chief School Business Official." *Journal of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials* (April 1992).

I Guzman Wagner, I.; Armstrong W.; and Speck, M. "The Chief School Business Official: A Scarce Resource, Part I. and Part II." *Journal of the California Association of School Business Officials: School Business Management* 59 (March and June 1994).

Guzman Wagner, I. "The Vanishing Business Official." *The American School Board Journal* (January 1990).

Guzman Wagner, I. "When Cultures Clash: Managing Conflict Between Corporate Cultures and Multicultural Workforces." Published in *University of Wisconsin Conference Proceedings: Building a Quality Workforce: A National Priority for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1989).

Guzman Wagner, I. "The California CBO: the 1987-88 Profile of Chief Business Officials in California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve." *California State Department of Education* (1989).

### **Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):**

San José State College is where I earned a bachelor's degree in Education in 1961. It's where I had a wonderful time although I received "the worst grade ever" in a required class, "Issues in Education." I challenged the grade with a deflating debate about what my nineteen-year-old self considered to be the truth and what my much-older professor knew to be an assumption unsupported by evidence. I remember writing that classrooms would look very different in the future because the children would be very different – they wouldn't all look the same. I'm not sure how I arrived at that conclusion, or revelation, but I think I might have relied on a crystal ball when the term paper deadline came too close for comfort. I learned a good lesson from that humbling experience – spending more time in

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Clark Library might be a wise thing to do. I persevered and, eventually, my ego and GPA were redeemed in other courses.

Twenty-five years after graduating from San José State, I returned as a faculty member in the College of Education and was assigned an office in Sweeney Hall around the corner from my long-gone “Issues” instructor. I never expected to return, especially in this capacity. Of course, the years since 1961 were filled with the kinds of experiences that so many Education faculty have in moving from a first job – mine in the Milpitas Unified School District – to a tenure-track position in a university. By 1986, San José State University had become one of the largest and most respected in the CSU system and I felt honored to be recruited and hired to teach in the Program of Educational Leadership and Higher Education.

In 1991, I went downstairs to the Dean’s Office where I served as Associate Dean, working with Dean Dolores Escobar, who continues to be my mentor and friend. San José State taught me a great deal, not just as a student, but as a faculty member and administrator. The skills I gained allowed me to serve as Dean of the College of Education at CSU Stanislaus for almost ten years. Since I had kept my house in Willow Glen while working in the Central Valley, I returned to it in 2004 when I retired. Since then, I have thoroughly enjoyed re-connecting with SJSU, my alma mater.

**Date Completed:** 2010