



Leadership

Philosophies of the Clovis Unified School District, p.4

Floyd “Doc” Buchanan, Ed.D., served as the first superintendent of Clovis Unified School District from 1960 to 1991. Doc’s simple, homespun philosophies about how education should work, how to build a successful team, and how to set and achieve high standards became the ingredients of Clovis Unified’ s transformation from “a little country school district,” to one of the finest in the state and arguably, the nation. The school district Doc was chosen to lead in 1960 did not have destination schools. Its students under-performed in reading and math. Its sports teams (if they existed) won the fight after the game rather than the game itself. Few people outside of town could place the district on a map. But Doc was a visionary. He knew how to hire the right people, he knew how to inspire them to become better, and he knew the importance of setting high expectations and how to motivate a team to achieve them. Times have changed since Doc was superintendent, but the philosophies of leadership he used to inspire the original Clovis Unified team are, at their core, timeless. Clovis Unified’ s success does not rest solely on Doc’s leadership, but also on the work of countless others who shared similar goals and who caught a common vision to serve students and serve each other. In their own way, each of these leaders applied the same tightly held beliefs when navigating the challenges faced in their own day and time, proving along the way that leading from a common set of quality core values is still relevant today.

*“I wanted to create an environment that would support the genius in every person.”*

Floyd “Doc” Buchanan, Ed.D.  
First Superintendent