



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■■ San Diego ■■ California 92128-3406

Phone (858) 521-2700 ■■ FAX (858) 485-1075

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Contact: Christine Paik, Director of Communications (858) 521-2707

Poway Unified Welcomes New Leadership at School Sites and District Office

The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce new leadership at three of its schools. Ms. Marie Galaz has been named Principal at Bernardo Heights Middle School, Mr. Eric Takeshita has been named Principal at Canyon View Elementary School, and Mr. Alain Henry has been named Principal at Abraxas High School. Ms. Galaz was approved by the Board of Education on May 30, 2017, and Mr. Takeshita and Mr. Henry were approved by the Board of Education on June 29, 2017.



Ms. Marie Galaz, Bernardo Heights Middle School Principal

Ms. Galaz comes to Bernardo Heights from Del Norte High School, where she served as an assistant principal for the past six years. Prior to working as a school administrator, she taught for seven years at San Marcos High School, and four and a half years at La Jolla High School and Wangenheim Middle School in San Diego city schools.



Mr. Alain Henry, Abraxas High School Principal

Mr. Henry comes to Abraxas with a 25-year career in education. His extensive experience includes serving as a special education teacher for 17 years and most recently, as Principal at Durango Big Picture High School in Colorado for the last eight years, where he worked with at-risk students toward academic success.



Mr. Eric Takeshita, Canyon View Elementary School Principal

Mr. Takeshita is joining Poway Unified School District with 24 years of experience in the San Diego Unified School District. His experience includes elementary teacher, vice principal, and principal. He has been Principal at Willard B. Hage Elementary School for the last 8 years. Although Mr. Takeshita is new to PUSD as an administrator, his wife has been a teacher in PUSD for many years and both his children are students in our district.

The Poway Unified School District is also pleased to announce the following new leadership at the District office. All were approved by the Board of Education on June 29, 2017.

Todd Cassen, Executive Director II Learning Support Services

Mr. Cassen has been the Principal at Westview High School for the past seven years, and prior to that, serving as Area Administrator as well as Athletic Director at Westview. He has spent the last 21 years of his career in Poway Unified, including as a math teacher at Poway High School. He also serves as President of the North County Conference and the Chair of the San Diego Section of CIF.



James Dayhoff, Director of Attendance/Student Discipline

Mr. Dayhoff comes to Poway Unified after serving for five and a half years as Principal of North County Academy, a therapeutic program for students with mental health needs. His prior educational experience includes teacher specializing in emotional disorders and program and behavior specialist both in North County and in Colorado.



Doug Johnson, Executive Director II Learning Support Services

Mr. Johnson has spent the last 28 years in the Poway Unified School District, with nine of those as the founding Principal at Del Sur Elementary School. Prior to that, he was the Principal at Morning Creek Elementary School for four years. Mr. Johnson was one of the first teachers hired to start Bernardo Heights Middle School in 1998. He has also been an assistant principal at Westwood Elementary, Bernardo Heights, and Twin Peaks Middle School.



Poway Unified is proud to have such talented educators joining our school district. Congratulations to our colleagues who have left PUSD for promotions and retirements.

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