



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
June 11, 2013

Contact: Superintendent's Office

Poway Unified School District Principal Appointments Recommended

The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce new leadership at several schools beginning July 2013. Superintendent John Collins made the following announcement:

"Once again Poway Unified School District is fortunate to announce the assignment of seven talented and dedicated principals at the elementary, middle, and high school level. I am confident that each of these individuals will provide the commitment and leadership necessary to allow each of these school sites to continue their great work and growth for the future."

Dr. Collins will recommend these assignments to the Board of Education for their approval at the June 24, 2013, Board meeting.

Chaparral Elementary School: Robin Robinson

Robin Robinson is currently the principal at Creekside Elementary School and has served in that role for the past eight years. Prior to that, Robin served in the district for 22 years as a middle school teacher at Twin Peaks Middle School, a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) at Poway High School, and an assistant principal at Chaparral Elementary and Westview High Schools.

Ms. Robinson earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Biola University, and her Master of Arts Degree from California State University, Los Angeles. Robin shares, "My greatest blessings come from serving children, teachers, and parents to ensure we are always doing what is best for kids. There is nothing more gratifying than seeing a child excited about learning and proud of their accomplishments both academically and personally."

Creekside Elementary School: Christine Donnelly

Christine Donnelly has been an assistant principal at Meadowbrook Middle School since 2010, where she also served as a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) for the After School Education and Safety Program for six years. She began her teaching career in 1995 as a Summer School Language Arts teacher at Poway High School, and then taught grades seven and eight at Meadowbrook. In addition to her administrative duties, this year Ms. Donnelly served on the Superintendent's Staff and Student Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Ms. Donnelly's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science from United States International University, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Alliant International University. She is very excited to serve as principal at Creekside noting, "After

eighteen years as a teacher and assistant principal in Poway Unified, I am thrilled to take on my new role as the Principal of Creekside Elementary. I look forward to working with the staff and parents, and I can't wait to meet the students. Go Geckos!"

Highland Ranch Elementary School: Cindy Venolia

Cindy Venolia, currently the principal at Stone Ranch Elementary School, has served in that role since 2007. Prior to that, she was an assistant principal at Park Village Elementary. She began her teaching career in 1997, when she taught grades one, two, and five. Ms. Venolia has earned recognition as a strong leader in literacy and mathematics curriculum design and instruction.

Ms. Venolia's educational background includes a Bachelor Degree in Liberal Arts from San Diego State University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Education and Teaching from National University. As she prepares to transition to Highland Ranch, Ms. Venolia states that she is, "honored to be a part of the Poway School District and excited to receive an opportunity to be a new member of the Highland Ranch school community. It has been wonderful to be the principal of Stone Ranch and I am confident that Highland Ranch will be the perfect place to continue my career."

Pomerado Elementary School: Luis Ortiz

Luis Ortiz is new to Poway Unified, currently serving as an assistant principal at Tovashal Elementary School in Murrieta, California. He is also a National Faculty Member of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, Character Counts!, and has conducted trainings in character development since 2007. Mr. Ortiz began his educational career as a bilingual instructional assistant in San Diego Unified School District in 1986, and taught in Cajon Valley from 1994-2001, before taking on his current assistant principal position in 2002.

Mr. Ortiz' educational background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Christian Heritage College, and a Master of Science Degree in Education and Administration from National University. Mr. Ortiz is happy to be returning to the San Diego area. "It's such a privilege to have been chosen as a school community leader in this prestigious district that has a strong record of achieving extraordinary results!"

Stone Ranch Elementary School: Lisa Danzer

Lisa Danzer is currently the principal at Pomerado Elementary School and has served in that role since 2002. She was hired as a teacher in PUSD in 1987, and has taught grades two, five, and six. Before moving to Pomerado Elementary, she served as an assistant principal at Meadowbrook Middle School. She is recognized by her peers and staff as a highly-regarded professional educator who champions learning for every student.

Ms. Danzer's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish as well as in Political Science from University of California Santa Barbara. She also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Instructional Leadership from National University, San Diego. As she prepares to transition to Stone Ranch Elementary School, Ms. Danzer states, "I am excited and ready for this opportunity to learn and grow. I look forward to getting to know the Stone Ranch community of students, staff, and families."

Willow Grove Elementary School: Amy Huff

Amy Huff is currently the assistant principal at Willow Grove Elementary School, where she served on the leadership team that opened the school in 2008. Prior to her role as assistant principal, Ms. Huff was a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA), charged with professional learning for the teachers on the Willow Grove staff. She has also taught at Willow Grove, Adobe Bluffs, and Westwood Elementary Schools. Ms. Huff began her in education career in 1980 as a Special Education teacher in Pensacola, Florida. She also taught in the states of Washington and Maryland before coming to our district.

Ms. Huff's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education from the University of West Florida, and a Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Chapman University in Monterey, California. Ms. Huff is very excited to be the principal of Willow Grove, and said, "I am thrilled about the opportunity to team with the wonderful Willow Grove staff and parents as the new principal. Leading such a high-performing staff and working with incredible students and community is truly a dream come true."

Black Mountain Middle School: Charan Kirpalani

Charan Kirpalani currently serves as an assistant principal at Westview High School and previously served for three years as an assistant principal at Twin Peaks Middle School. He has been a member of several districtwide committees with Technology and Curriculum and Instruction. Before coming to Poway Unified, Mr. Kirpalani worked in the Grossmont Unified School District as a high school Chemistry and Physics teacher.

Mr. Kirpalani's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, and a Master of Arts Degree in Education, Curriculum, and Instruction from San Diego State University.

"I am excited to become a part of the Black Mountain community and immerse myself into the BMMS Raiders' tradition and culture."

Abraxas High School: David MacLeod

David MacLeod has been a member of the Abraxas High School team for the past six years as a Science teacher and currently serves as the school's assistant principal. Before coming to Abraxas, he worked in private industry at General Dynamics and Dynamic Scheduling & Management, Ltd.

Mr. MacLeod earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Montana State University and a Master of Education Degree in Cross-Cultural Education from National University. Mr. MacLeod states, "Abraxas is an amazing school and I am thrilled to be its new principal. These remarkable staff members really care and build long-lasting relationships with our students. I invite any interested parents to contact me to learn more about this great place."

Mt. Carmel High School: Greg Magno

Currently serving as the principal of Black Mountain Middle School, Greg Magno will now be returning to Mt. Carmel High School as the principal. Mr. Magno had previously served as the assistant principal at Mt. Carmel for seven years. Prior to joining the Poway Unified School District,

he served as a Math teacher in the Sweetwater District at Eastlake High and Montgomery Middle Schools. "I am excited to have the opportunity to continue to serve the community of Rancho Peñasquitos. Mt. Carmel is a special place that I am proud to be a part of again."

Mr. Magno earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Structural Engineering from University of California, San Diego, and his Master of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University.

Poway High School: Ron Garrett

Ron Garrett is currently in his 20th year in Poway Unified. During the 2012-2013 school year, he served as the principal of Abraxas High School. Previous to this leadership position, he was an assistant principal at Mt. Carmel High School for 12 years and a Science teacher at Poway High School. Prior to joining Poway Unified School District, he taught in Texas.

Mr. Garrett earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Stony Brook University in New York, and a Master of Science Degree in Educational Administration from National University.

Mr. Garrett notes, "It's an honor to again be part of the tradition of excellence that has made Poway High School a great place for our students."

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