

From: Superintendent
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 5:59 PM
To: Superintendent
Subject: Leadership Announcements

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing today with the news that our Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Ana Tilton, is leaving Denver Public Schools to pursue an excellent opportunity with Global Partnership Schools--a newly formed education company focused on district partnerships and led by two former National Superintendent of the Year winners, Manny Rivera and Rudy Crew.

We will miss Ana and her brilliance, dedication, passion and enthusiasm very much. Ana has more than made her mark in her tenure with DPS. She began her career in education as a DPS teacher and assistant principal, personally touching the lives of thousands of Denver's children. Most recently, in her position as Chief Academic Officer, she was instrumental in our successful bid for a \$10 million Educator Effectiveness grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, helped us realize our efforts to move to online assessments, and was unwavering in her commitment to the success of our English-Language Learners. We are indebted to her for her work and dedication to the children of Denver. She will always be a part of our DPS family.

While we're disappointed to lose such a valued leader, we are pleased to announce that our own Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Susana Cordova, will become Chief Academic Officer. Susana is a tremendously talented leader, and many of you have had the pleasure of working with her at some point in her 20-plus years with the district.

Susana is a Lincoln High School graduate and started her career with DPS in 1989 at Horace Mann Middle School, teaching English and Spanish. She has also served the district as a student advisor, assistant principal and principal. In 2002, she transitioned to district leadership as the Director of Literacy and has been a key leader of the critical reform efforts under the Denver Plan.

Beyond her work with the district, Susana is a respected member of the Northwest Denver community, where she and husband Eric Duran, a North High School graduate, and their two children live. She believes in our schools, and she believes in our community. She is a Denver Public Library commissioner and serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations. DPS has always benefited from Susana's visionary leadership, and I am proud to welcome her as our Chief Academic Officer.

In addition to Susana's appointment, there are additional leadership announcements we would like to make you aware of.

A year ago, we were fortunate to have Bruce Randolph Principal, Dr. Kristin Waters, join our leadership team as an Assistant to the Superintendent for Reform and Innovation. Kristin helped establish and lead our Office of School Reform and Innovation--guiding schools through the innovation process, leading our "Call for Quality Schools," and leading a number of our major initiatives with charter schools, including facility sharing and taking steps to ensure that special education students have equitable access to our charter schools. Building on her time as leader of OSRI, Kristin will become an Instructional Superintendent in the High School Network, taking over for Joe Sandoval, who will become principal of Manual High School. We are looking forward to Kristin bringing her extraordinary leadership skills,

successful reform strategies she honed at Bruce Randolph, instructional experience, and passion for excellence to this role.

Stepping in to lead our Office of School Reform and Innovation is Dr. Noemi Donoso, who comes to us as an accomplished and innovative instructional leader and school reformer. Noemi currently serves as Chief Academic Officer of all Camino Nuevo charter schools in Los Angeles, which have a very strong track record of serving high-needs students. Over 95% of Camino Nuevo students are Latino, and a similar percentage qualify for free or reduced lunch, with over two thirds designated as English-Language Learners. More than 95% of Camino Nuevo high school students graduate on time, with at least 75% of each of the last three graduating classes earning four-year college acceptances.

Noemi brings to DPS extensive classroom and community experience as both a principal and a teacher, combined with a steadfast commitment to high achievement and equity in educational opportunities for underserved communities. I'm confident her leadership will have a tremendous impact on our district.

Thank you for your work, and I hope you're having a good summer.

*Best,
Tom*