



News

from the MNPS Communications Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

For Immediate Release

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April 12, 2010

Tennessee's Executive Director of Federal Programs Julie McCargar, Ed.D. to join Metro Nashville Public Schools

NASHVILLE, TN (April 12, 2010) – Julie McCargar, Ed.D., the current Executive Director of Federal Programs for Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE), will bring her knowledge and expertise to Metro Nashville Public Schools as the district's new Executive Director of Federal Programs. McCargar begins her new position May 3.

"Dr. McCargar has tremendous knowledge and experience in federal programs and grants," said MNPS Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register. "Educators across the state recognize her as the 'go-to' person, and she will be a strong addition as we continue our efforts to make this district the first choice for every family in Nashville."

"We are very excited to have her joining our team," said Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Support Dr. Linda DePriest. "Her expertise will help as we continue working to improve the educational outcome for all of our students."

McCargar has been the state's Executive Director of Federal Programs since 2001. During her tenure, she has been instrumental in the state's Race to the Top application, and provided statewide direction in more than \$500 million annual federal grants under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). She has served as the state director for multiple NCLB programs, as well as the principal advisor to senior leadership, providing input to state and federal elected representatives. McCargar helped draft the state's approved NCLB consolidated application, the approved Accountability Workbook, and numerous federal grants including charter schools, transition to teach, and comprehensive school reform. She has established and administered the statewide technical assistance and monitoring system for 136 school districts; overseen NCLB programs for special populations, including English as a Second Language (ESL), migrant, homeless, and neglected/delinquent programs; and acted as media spokesperson regarding the state's implementation of NCLB.

"The past eight years have provided me an incredible depth of knowledge and experience," said McCargar. "I see tremendous potential and opportunity within Nashville's public schools and am excited to begin working with Dr. Register, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Support Dr. Linda DePriest, and the team of educators they have working with them. I believe MNPS can – and will – be a national model for reform and excellence."

Prior to her current position, McCargar fulfilled other positions with TDOE including the State Project Director for Federal Education Grant Programs and a consultant for state curriculum and instruction. She began her education

career working as an ESL and English as a Foreign Language instructor. McCargar spent two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer serving as an ESL instructor in Kabul, Afghanistan. She then worked as a teacher training consultant in Khartoum, Sudan, and then spent nine years in the classroom as an elementary and middle school teacher. McCargar also served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education at Tennessee State University.

Dr. Kecia Ray, the district's current Executive Director of Federal Programs, will become the new Executive Director of the Instructional Technology Department. She assumed oversight of the Federal Programs in the spring of 2008.

"Technology in the classroom has long been my passion," said Ray. "This new position will allow me the opportunity to help develop and oversee innovative, technology-based educational opportunities for our students. We want to create new-age learning opportunities that will become a national model."

Ray is known for her expertise in distance and online learning. She taught in one of the first 21st Century classrooms in the state of Tennessee and participated in the state's first distance learning network. Ray has served on numerous boards and committees dedicated to studying technology-based learning, as well as conducting independent research in the area of technology integration across the U.S., Canada and South Africa.

Ray is also a twenty-year member of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) where she is currently serving as President for the Special Interest Group for Online Learning. She is also on the graduate faculty for the college of Teaching and Learning at University of Maryland University College, and is the author of three books and several papers focused on designing instruction with technology.

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Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools serve more than 76,000 students with the goal of being the first choice for families in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.