



# News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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## **Michael Tolley Appointed as High School Director**

Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno has announced that Michael Tolley will join Seattle Public Schools as High School Director on September 1. An experienced educator and administrator, Tolley has previously served as a principal and senior leader in the Charleston County School District in South Carolina.

“Mr. Tolley has an outstanding track record of performance as a high school principal and administrator,” said Santorno. “He has proven his ability to introduce rigor into the classroom, and has in-depth experience with Advanced Placement.”

Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson worked with Mr. Tolley for the four years of her tenure in Charleston. “I am delighted that Mr. Tolley has accepted this role,” said Dr. Goodloe-Johnson. “He has the experience and skills to work with our high school principals and staff to accelerate increases in achievement for all students, and he is excited about coming to Seattle.”

Tolley has more than 10 years experience as a high school principal and senior leader. He served for one year as interim Associate Superintendent in Charleston. In this role, he had direct supervision of 17 schools across all K-12 levels, including eight Title I schools. Tolley served for three and a half years as principal of Burke High School; and was assistant principal (three years) and principal (three years) of the Academic Magnet High School, both in Charleston. During his tenure, *Newsweek* twice ranked the Academic Magnet High School as the tenth best high school in the nation. Mr. Tolley began his education career teaching biology and marine biology for five years and also taught advanced placement biology and marine biology for 10 years.

Mr. Tolley has also been an adjunct professor in the Department of Biology, College of Charleston; an Instructor in the Biotechnology Education and Training Program, Department of Physiology, Medical University of South Carolina; and a Marine Research Biologist with the Kiawah Island Loggerhead Sea Turtle Program. Tolley has a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston, a Master of Arts in Education and an Education Specialist (Ed.S) degree from The Citadel, a Certificate in Secondary School Administration and Supervision; an Education and a Superintendent Certification.

Phil Brockman, principal of Ballard High School, agreed to serve as interim high school director when the role became vacant earlier this year. He will work with Tolley to ensure a smooth transition. “I want to thank Mr. Brockman for agreeing to serve as interim high school director,” said Santorno. “He has done a wonderful job. The depth and breadth of his experience has not only stabilized this area, but he has also tackled some very challenging issues. Mr. Brockman let us know this spring that he wanted to return to his full-time principal role at Ballard, where he has more opportunity to provide direct support to students.”

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