

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2019

Tamara Van Wyhe Named Director of Educator and School Excellence

JUNEAU -- Tamara Van Wyhe has been named Director of Educator and School Excellence in the Department of Education & Early Development. She began her new position today, January 2, 2019.

"Tammy is a tireless advocate for students and will serve the department well," said Commissioner Johnson. "She has a teacher's heart and knows how students learn and how effective teachers teach. She is relentlessly committed to raising student achievement, and has demonstrated repeatedly that she has the character needed for leadership."

The director oversees the Division of Educator and School Excellence, which includes the work of several teams of education professionals engaged in school health and safety, teacher certification and preparation, and school improvement efforts. The director will be heavily involved in engagement with the University of Alaska to forge partnerships focused on preparing, attracting, and retaining effective education professionals in Alaska. Additionally, the director represents the division before the Alaska State Legislature and the State Board of Education & Early Development.

Ms. Van Wyhe is a national board certified teacher and holds certification in Alaska as both a teacher and administrator. She has been teaching in Alaska for over 20 years, most recently serving as superintendent of the Copper River School District in Glennallen.

Ms. Van Wyhe holds a bachelor of arts degree with a minor in special education, and a master of arts degree in teaching with an emphasis in secondary education from Augustana College. She holds a graduate certificate in educational leadership from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and is currently enrolled in a doctorate program in education through Capella University.

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The logo for the Department of Education & Early Development, featuring a stylized hand holding a star above the text "EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT".

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& EARLY DEVELOPMENT