

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TUSD Names New Director of Food Services

(TRACY, Calif.) – Tracy Unified is proud to announce Valerie McDonald has been named the new Director of Food Services.

Ms. McDonald began her school food service career at Manteca Unified before moving on to Lodi Unified in 2004. She has spent the last seven years as a Food Service Supervisor entrusted with overseeing the operations of a large number of K-12 cafeterias.

Valerie is a certified School Nutrition Association Trainer and designed and implemented the School Food Service Pathway to Excellence professional development program at Lodi Unified.

She currently serves as the Public Policy and Legislation Co-chair and Professional Development Co-Chair of the local School Nutrition Association Chapter. In this role, she recently had the opportunity to go to the Capitol to visit the offices of legislators as a voice for school nutrition programs.

Ms. McDonald's is eager to begin her role in TUSD. "My goal is to continue to provide students with the "best meals in town" in a safe and caring environment," said McDonald. "As part of the Tracy team, I will partner with educators by ensuring nutritious meals that enhance a student's ability to learn. Studies have shown that there is an association between the consumption of school meals and better grades, higher test scores and improved attendance. It will also be my goal to provide learning opportunities for food service personnel as part of their own ladder to professional success. I welcome my new challenges and look forward to meeting with students, staff and community members as I proudly take on my role as Food Service Director at Tracy Unified School District."

Ms. McDonald will be replacing Matthew Belasco who left TUSD in June 2010. For the 2010-11 school year, the Director position was vacant, with Associate Superintendent Dr. Casey Goodall supervising the department.

"We are excited to welcome Valerie to TUSD," said James C. Franco, Ed.D., Superintendent. "Her knowledge and enthusiasm for health nutrition is a wonderful match for our District's goals."

McDonald is expected to begin work in late August.

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