Columbia Area Career Center Announces New Director

Columbia, MO -- The Columbia Area Career Center will welcome a new leader next school year.

The Career Center will bid farewell to its current director, Linda Rawlings, at the end of the school year. Rawlings announced her retirement earlier this school year. Rawlings has been with Columbia Public Schools for 20 years — 19 of them at the Career Center, including four years as director.

Randall Gooch will be recommended to the Board of Education as the new director for the Columbia Area Career Center.

Gooch is currently the assistant director at the Career Center. He has more than 15 years of experience in education and has filled a variety of roles including serving as a teacher, counselor and as the director of the Career Center in Mexico, Missouri, prior to joining Columbia Public Schools. Gooch holds a an educational specialist degree in educational leadership from William Woods University.

Gooch will begin his role as director at the end of the 2013-14 regular school year. “I am excited to serve as the new director,” said Gooch. “I have previously served as the assistant director and have spent much of my educational career working in career education.”

The Career Center provides educational opportunities for students from high school to adults to prepare for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers. It serves Southern Boone County (Ashland), Christian Fellowship, Columbia Independent, Home School, Douglass, Hallsville, Fr. Tolton, Hickman, Rock Bridge and Battle high schools.

To learn more visit: http://career-center.org/

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