

Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy Announces New Leader

Clark County School District senior administrator Marsha Irvin to take model charter school to new heights

LAS VEGAS - Nov. 25, 2008 - The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (AACPA) announces the appointment of Marsha Irvin as Chancellor effective January 14, 2009.

Reporting to Marsha Irvin in her new position will be Andre Agassi College Preparatory elementary, middle, and high school principals, along with the functional areas of finance, human resources, and facilities.

Andre Agassi commented, "Marsha Irvin shares my belief that with education, there is hope. With Marsha's leadership, every Agassi Prep student will gain access to a bright future. The members of the Agassi Prep family—students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, community partners and board of directors—have exciting times ahead."

Irvin relocated to Las Vegas in 1982 to join the Clark County School District as a teacher and has since served in numerous administrative roles. In her role as the district's Northeast Region Superintendent, Irvin has been the lead administrator for 51 K-12 public schools. In this capacity, Irvin developed programs to support schools in achieving academic standards, while providing leadership to assistant region superintendents, principals, assistant principals, teachers, deans, and liaisons assigned to the region.

Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, commented on Irvin's success in the fifth largest district in the country: "Marsha Irvin has long been an effective advocate for the children and parents of the Clark County School District. Her creative thinking has led to many innovative and effective practices in her region, including school choice, same gender classes, and the establishment of a college culture. Each initiative has been crafted with a focus on improving student achievement."

He continued, "We are disappointed that her career path is taking her in a new direction, but not surprised, since her leadership and performance have been recognized by many outside the district. Agassi Prep is extremely fortunate to gain Marsha Irvin as its chief administrator. She will no doubt continue to be successful in her new pursuits, and we wish her the very best as she accepts this opportunity."

"I am overwhelmed with joy as I take the next step in my career by providing quality education to the students at Agassi Prep," said Marsha Irvin. "Andre Agassi's personal vision and passion for education are especially meaningful, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to help fulfill his goals. Since Agassi Prep is a local public charter school, I will enjoy remaining engaged with the district in which I have put my hard work and energy for the past 26 years."

During her tenure with the Clark County School District, Irvin has worked as a teacher, special education zone consultant, summer school site administrator, assistant principal, principal, director of elementary/special education licensed personnel services, assistant superintendent and east area superintendent – all of which prepared her for her current role as Region Superintendent.

"We have real gems in our local education community and we are fortunate to have recruited one," said Dr. Benjamin Sayeski, AACF chief education officer. "Marsha's passion for student

achievement, commitment to a college preparatory culture, and connections across the Las Vegas community make her the right leader for Agassi Prep."

Irvin serves on the board of many community organizations and has been recognized by many more. In 2005, she was appointed by Chairman Elaine Wynn to the Board of Directors of Nevada's chapter of Communities In Schools, the nation's largest dropout prevention organization. Irvin also serves on the Board of Trustees for Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, Sunrise Children's Hospital; and the President's Advisory Council for the University of Southern Nevada.

"I have had the honor of working with Marsha Irvin for over two decades. She is one of the finest educators in Southern Nevada," said Elaine Wynn. "Marsha has been a consistent and positive force in the Clark County School District, working tirelessly on behalf of all the children. Marsha has been a wonderful partner in all of my education efforts in the state. She will bring a wealth of knowledge and integrity to her new role as Chancellor of the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy."

Some of the many honors that Irvin has received include the Frederick Douglass Educational Fund Founders Award; induction into the Education Hall of Fame; Recognition from Senator John Ensign for being honored by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach for Vision of Regionwide College Readiness; Recognition from Congressman Jon C. Porter for Providing Educational Opportunities in the Community as a Partner with the University of Nevada; and the Professional Black Women's Alliance Rose Award for Demonstrating Continuing Efforts to Reach Goals and Serve the Community.

Irvin can be reached at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy at 702.948.6000 beginning January 14.

About the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy

The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (AACPA) is a model public charter school whose goal is to offer academic programs designed to enhance a child's character, respect, motivation and self-discipline. Located in the heart of Las Vegas' most at-risk neighborhood, AACPA was created specifically to improve skill levels and combat lowered academic expectations while creating a climate of hope among this community's most challenged children. Learn more at www.agassiprep.org.