



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Tony Wood will join the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) as deputy commissioner. Arkansas Commissioner of Education Tom W. Kimbrell announced the appointment today at the Arkansas Association of Education Administrators annual summer conference.

"It is important to surround yourself with people who are excellent in what they do, as we work to be an agency of support and service to school districts," Kimbrell said. Wood is recently retired from Searcy School District, where he served as superintendent from 1992 to 2010. Wood holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Harding University.

Wood assumes the position after the retirement of Diana Julian, who worked at the department from 2005 to 2010 as assistant commissioner of learning services and then as deputy commissioner. She also served as interim commissioner of the department immediately before Gov. Mike Beebe appointed Kimbrell as commissioner.

Kimbrell also announced two other additions to the ADE staff: Susan Bonesteel, currently with National Center for Educational Achievement in Austin, Texas, who will be replacing Heather Gage as Director of Policy; and Dr. Charles Stein, who replaces Doug Eaton as director of the Division of Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.