



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Dr. Diana Julian, deputy commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education, is retiring from the agency at the end of April.

Julian plans to work with the graduate programs at Harding University and in other school leadership and curriculum/instruction initiatives across the country but has not revealed any other details at this time about her future work.

"There is great need for Arkansas and the country to better understand the teaching and learning process and to provide the leadership needed for all students to learn to high levels," Julian said about her continued work in the field of education.

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Arkansas commissioner of education, said, "Dr. Julian has been a tireless advocate for children and, more broadly, for education. Because of her hard work and dedication, we are well positioned to build on our strengths and address our challenges as we look to the future."

Julian, who served as interim commissioner at the agency from July until October of 2009, has served two stints as deputy at ADE. She served as deputy director from 1994 to 1997. She left the agency to become superintendent of the Benton School District and rejoined the agency in 2005.

Julian, former superintendent in Benton and Bryant school districts, was the 2005 Superintendent of the Year. She has been a teacher and administrator in Arkansas, Missouri and Alabama.

"I am looking forward to the next phase of my career," Dr. Julian said. "I wish the commissioner and the agency staff the very best in their continued work."

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.