



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Johnny Key, Commissioner*

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## **Smith Appointed to Charter Authorizing Panel; Gotcher Named Vice-Chair**

**LITTLE ROCK** — Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key appointed Stacy Smith, interim assistant commissioner for Learning Services, to the Charter Authorizing Panel. Smith replaces Dr. Debbie Jones, who recently left ADE to become the deputy superintendent at the Bentonville School District.

Dr. Mark Gotcher, ADE deputy commissioner, has been named the panel's vice-chair. Gotcher, who has served on the panel since July 2015, replaces Jones as vice-chair.

The Charter Authorizing Panel oversees the authorization, renewal, revision and revocation of charters. The Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013 requires the commissioner to appoint ADE staff to the panel.

To learn more about the panel, go to <http://www.arkansased.gov/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel>.

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