



PRESS RELEASE

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South Fayette Hires New District Administrators

Director of Innovation, Strategic Partnerships & Instructional Technology and
Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education

SOUTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP: On February 16, 2021, the South Fayette Township Board of Directors approved Dr. Matthew Callison as the new Director of Innovation, Strategic Partnerships & Instructional Technology. Dr. Callison replaces Ms. Aileen Owens, who retired in January and who spearheaded the computer science/computational thinking pathway for the district over the last 11 years.

In the same evening, Ms. Kristin Deichler was named the new Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education, replacing Dr. Jeff Evancho who left the position this month after serving in the role since the fall of 2018.

Dr. Matthew Callison

Dr. Matthew Callison is an educator, author, consultant, and entrepreneur who has worked in the field of education for over 20 years with learners of every age. Starting in 1998, Dr. Callison worked as an educator in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 10 years. In 2005, Dr. Callison graduated from the Center for Teaching Excellence and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco with a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). In 2007, Dr. Callison was named an Apple Distinguished Educator for the innovative and effective ways he uses technology for teaching and learning. In 2010, he moved to Indiana to pursue his doctoral degree in Instructional Technology at Indiana University, where he co-founded an educational technology startup in 2015, and was awarded his Ph.D. in 2017. In 2015, Dr. Callison earned his administrative license and MEd in Educational Leadership from Indiana University. His research primarily focuses on evidence-based instructional approaches,

scaffolding, formative feedback, and student-centered learning approaches like project and problem-based learning. Dr. Callison also presents at the local, state, national, and international level.

Dr. Callison comes to South Fayette Township School District from Indiana, where he was a manager of online instructional design for Indiana University. At Indiana University, he lead and managed a team of 14 instructional designers, developed policies and procedures for his department, and partnered with faculty, program directors, campus leadership, and members of teacher centers across the university's seven campuses to support the design and development of online and hybrid courses, graduate certificate programs, and new online degrees in a multitude of disciplines. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Callison has taught a variety of courses in instructional technology and blended and personalized learning to preservice and inservice teachers at universities such as Indiana University and Texas Tech University. He also has acted as a consultant to Indiana Wesleyan University's Doctorate in Business Administration. As a consultant, he trained faculty and staff on problem-based learning (PBL), and developed immersive learning experiences for the program's doctoral students.

Ms. Kristin Deichler

Ms. Deichler first joined the South Fayette Middle School team for the 2001-2002 school year as a long-term substitute and then transitioned into becoming the sixth grade science teacher in the subsequent school year. After three years in that position, Ms. Deichler became one of the sixth grade mathematics teachers and remained in that position for 11 years. In 2015-2016, Ms. Deicher was named the assistant principal for the middle school and then was promoted to the position of middle school principal for the 2016-2017 school year. She has served in that role for the past five years.

In addition to her educational and administrative positions, Ms. Deichler has served on multiple committees, including those related to curriculum, instruction, data, and strategic planning, as well as represented South Fayette Middle School by presenting at local, state, and national conferences. Ms. Deichler' passion for and dedication to middle level children and their education is evident in the earning of the Don Eichhorn's "Schools to Watch" designations in 2016 and 2019 which recognize middle schools for their exemplary programs and dedication to continual growth.

Ms. Deichler holds her Bachelor's Degree from Duquesne University and her Master's Degree in Administration, as well as her K-12 Principal Certification, from California University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Deichler is set to earn her Doctor of Education this summer from California University of Pennsylvania.