



## USD 497 News Release

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### Administrative Announcement



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces that Patrick Kelly, director of the Lawrence College and Career Center, will become the district's executive director of curriculum and instruction this summer. Kelly also currently oversees career and technical education. He will succeed Dr. Jennifer Bessolo, who will transfer to a part-time curriculum specialist position with Lawrence Virtual School to spend more time with family. Kelly's new role is effective July 1, 2020, pending board approval.

"Patrick is the right person to guide the team directly responsible for advancing the heart of our mission - teaching and learning," said Dr. Lewis. "He has brought outstanding leadership, creativity, innovation, and relationship-building skills to a variety of positions. These

experiences give him a unique perspective on how far the district has come and where we need to go as we work to achieve the goals of our strategic plan."

Kelly earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kansas and served six years as a band and choir director in Topeka USD 501 before joining Lawrence Public Schools in 1999 as a band director. He taught instrumental music and directed bands for seven years at West Junior High, Free State High, and Hillcrest Elementary.

Kelly served as associate principal at Free State High during the 2012-2013 school year, and then as a district curriculum specialist for the content areas of fine arts and career and technical education for six years. The district selected him to guide the planning and development of its College and Career Center in 2012. After community approval of a \$92.5 million bond issue in 2013, the Center opened in 2015.

"I am extremely grateful for the work our staff has done to expand and improve the quality of our career and technical education programs. It is exciting that we are helping students discover what's next through hands-on learning and postsecondary classes at the College and Career Center and our high schools. Next year will be even better with the opening of the College and Career Academy, a smaller learning community with full-day opportunities for high school students," said Kelly.

"As a Lawrence educator for 20 years, it is an honor to be asked to serve our students, families, and community partners by expanding my leadership and supporting all staff as we move toward a comprehensive, cohesive curriculum that supports the diverse needs, experiences, and interests of our students," he added.

A graduate of Leadership Lawrence, Kelly is a leadership facilitator for that program and Leadership Douglas County. The Lawrence community elected Kelly to the Douglas County Commission in 2018. He currently serves as commission chair.