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USD 497 News Release

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Personnel Announcement



Dr. Cynthia Johnson, executive director of inclusion, engagement, and belonging, announces the selection of David Farve (Mississippi Choctaw) as Native American Student Services (NASS) coordinator, effective immediately pending school board approval. Farve succeeds Kenneth St. Pierre, who resigned in December to serve as an assistant superintendent and principal of Kickapoo Nation School in Powhattan, Kansas.

A Lawrence High alumnus of the Class of 1989, Farve attended Central Junior High and Cordley Elementary, where his mother served as school secretary. He currently works as a learning and development specialist with the Southcentral Foundation. A nonprofit health care organization, the Foundation serves nearly 70,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, Alaska, and the surrounding area. Its mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.

“David Farve is returning to the Lawrence community with a wealth of personal and professional experience that has prepared him to take NASS to the next level. It will be exciting to see how he will connect with students, families, and the community as we honor cultural heritage, improve student outcomes, and develop Indigenous curriculum resources. David’s expertise will continue to move NASS forward,” said Dr. Johnson, adding, “We appreciate the NASS Parent Committee for its involvement in interviewing candidates for the position and assisting with the recommendation to the superintendent.”

Farve’s work with the Southcentral Foundation began in 2004. Prior to his current position, he served as a youth advocate and public relations and video production specialist until 2008. He returned there in 2016 as an executive special assistant to the president and later, a program manager. Farve also worked in public relations and media management for the Alaska Native Heritage Center from 2007-2014. He earned associate’s and bachelor’s degrees from Haskell Indian Nations University.

“I am excited to return to the community I grew up in. Working with NASS will give me an opportunity to give back to my hometown and the Indigenous community. Having NASS gives our youth a place to find hope, learning, and mentorship to succeed in school and life,” said Farve.

Farve and his wife, Pola, have three daughters, Halitopa attends Haskell, Taloa is an LHS senior, and NaFehna, the reigning Jr. Miss Indian Lawrence, is a Billy Mills Middle School eighth grader.

NASS coordinator is a classified support position on the Inclusion, Engagement, and Belonging Team. Since 1972, NASS has provided educational opportunities and support for American Indian and Alaska Native students in Lawrence Public Schools. Its goal is to enhance and support students’ overall growth and development through cultural and academic programs. NASS supports approximately 530 students representing more than 100 tribes. Its offices are located at Broken Arrow, 2704 Louisiana Street.