

**July 8, 2014**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



For more information:

Melissa Reeves, [mdreeves@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:mdreeves@jeffco.k12.co.us), Jeffco Public Schools, 303-982-6567

Lynn Setzer, [lsetzer@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:lsetzer@jeffco.k12.co.us), Jeffco Public Schools, 303-982-6810

## **JEFFCO SCHOOLS HIRES NEW CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

Jeffco Schools is excited to announce the hiring of Dr. Syna Morgan as the district's chief academic officer.



Morgan is a native Coloradan growing up in the southern part of the state with a mother who worked as a school principal. Beginning her career as an educational software developer, she moved to teaching in a classroom for 12 years before earning her PhD focused on professional development and school improvement.

She has 24 years of education experience while working as an educational consultant for schools and districts, which led her to a director position in the Colorado Department of Education in the school improvement and turnaround department. In 2010, Morgan joined the Douglas County School District as the chief system performance officer.

"The thing that's most exciting to me is that the education world is shifting and we really have to provide an educational system that is adaptive and meets the needs of our students," said Morgan. "I honor and value the work of our teachers because the interaction of quality teachers with students is what makes the best educational experience for kids."

Morgan said her new role will focus on finding out from teachers what types of support systems and professional development they need to do their best work. "I strongly believe that if we are going to hold teachers to an expectation of results, we have a responsibility to provide the resources and training and support to do the work."

Superintendent Dan McMinimee is excited for Morgan to join the Jeffco team. "Her knowledge of curriculum, instruction and assessment is exceptional," he said. "She will lead our team forward in a positive and balanced way with a focus on student achievement and growth."

Morgan replaces Dr. Heather Beck who left the position in June to become the next superintendent of Lake Oswego School District in Oregon.