

CONTACT
Toby Gilbert
AUSD PIO
Email: toby@tobygilbert.us
Mobile: [281-546-6457](tel:281-546-6457)
March 16, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

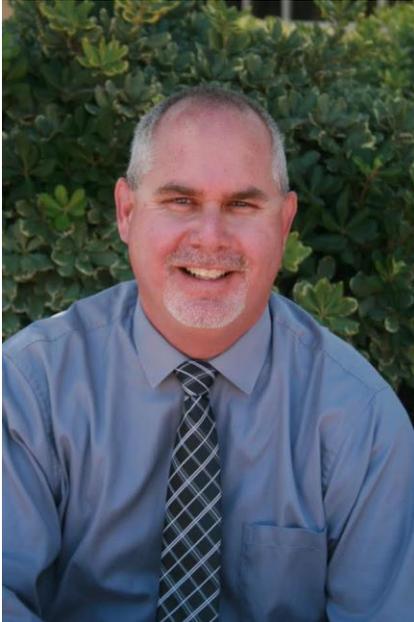
Twenty-year AUSD Veteran John Scanlan Tapped to Lead Gateway to Success as District's New Assistant Superintendent Student + Employee Welfare

The Board praises the Mark Keppel Principal's dedication to students, families, teachers and staff and long-time community roots

In a 5-0 vote, the Alhambra USD Board, unanimously backed Mark Keppel High School Principal, John Scanlan, to lead the nationally recognized AUSD Gateway to Success program as the District's new Assistant Superintendent Student + Employee Welfare. Scanlan succeeds Gateway Founder and retiring Assistant Superintendent SEW, Dr. Laurel Bear, whose pioneering Prevent| Prepare| Protect approach is recognized as a model for the nation. Gateway pairs school-based mental health assessments, education and services with a network of strong collaborative community supports to build a school mental health and safety program that is a rare and much-needed approach for all districts in the era of students imperiled by lethal despair and school violence.

AUSD Board President Joanne Russell-Chavez says, "The Board is prepared to give John every resource, every tool he needs in his new role as Assistant Superintendent Student + Employee Welfare. We want to be the wind beneath his sails as he charts the course of the Gateway to Success program into the future."

Denise Jaramillo, AUSD Superintendent echoes that confidence in Scanlan, saying, "We are very pleased that someone with John's twenty year track record of leadership in our district schools will be using his talents,



experience and dedication to continue the work that Dr. Laurel Bear set so skillfully in motion with Gateway to Success. John grew up in the district, graduated from San Gabriel High School, has for two decades demonstrated his gifts for positive impact on students, parents and AUSD employees, has strong community ties and a deep commitment to this vital work."

Both Russell-Chavez and Jaramillo say that while Dr. Bear's transformational leadership pioneered the infrastructure of hope and opportunity that Gateway to Success has become, she also mentored and put in place an incredible team to carry the program forward with Scanlan at the helm. They point out that the program is now firmly embedded in the fabric of the whole district and the community.

Scanlan himself says he cherishes this opportunity to lead Gateway, "I've always preached the whole child approach to education. It is very hard for students to learn — or even come to class — if they are depressed, anxious, abused, hungry, or homeless. Mental health assessments, education and services are foundational to our students' ability to succeed, not only in school, but in life. Our goal with Gateway and with education is to cultivate

connected, resilient, growth mindset young people who learn that asking for help and giving help are strengths. The Gateway team is one of the best anywhere. It will be a privilege to work together."

AUSD Community Partner Alhambra Police Chief, Timothy Vu, says his department has enjoyed close ties with Scanlon at Mark Keppel High School and looks forward to their collaboration in Scanlan's new post as AUSD Assistant Superintendent of Student + Employee Welfare. "It will be a pleasure to continue APD's good relationship with AUSD through our work with Mr. Scanlan and his Gateway team."

Retiring Gateway founder Dr. Bear says she is leaving the program in excellent hands with Scanlon, "John is an inspiring and motivating leader. The whole District takes ownership of Gateway and our amazing community partners are firmly in place to make the program sustainable and to also address the root causes of mental health and behavior issues. The Gateway team knows and respects John's dedication and commitment. I may have started Gateway, but the program is part of the oxygen of the Alhambra Unified School District because we all see what a difference it is making in the lives of our children and families."