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## OCCS Names New Executive Director

Dr. Darlene Chambers, an accomplished teacher, educational administrator, and successful consultant to both educational institutions and business, has been named the new executive director of the Ohio Council of Community Schools.

The announcement was made by OCCS Board of Directors Chairman Harlan Reichle following a unanimous vote of the OCCS Board at its meeting Wednesday. Ms. Chambers takes office effective July 1, 2010, the beginning of the organization's new fiscal year.

"I am confident Darlene Chambers will be a success leading OCCS," Mr. Reichle said. "She has worked with us for several years now and we believe her expertise is exactly what this organization needs at exactly this time in its history. We have built a strong foundation to help charter schools succeed in Ohio, and her experience, professionalism, and leadership will improve the performance of these schools even more."

OCCS, the leading authorizer of charter schools in Ohio, oversees the operation of 48 charter schools across the state.

"I am thrilled to be able to put my experiences and skills to work in this new capacity for OCCS," Dr. Chambers said. "The Ohio Council of Community Schools is a well-respected, front-line leader in charter school quality and compliance with state laws. OCCS founder and executive director Allison Perz has done a great job building this organization from the beginning, and I look forward to continuing this great work."

Ms. Perz is leaving to work on other projects in the field of education.

"Charter schools have been an important addition to the educational landscape in Ohio and have improved the educational experience of students," Ms. Perz said.

"This has been a rewarding experience for me personally and professionally. OCCS has nurtured and helped grow the charter school movement in Ohio, and we have made great progress in helping to offer a quality educational alternative to traditional public schools. We have seen some great success stories in our schools, and I believe OCCS will play an increasingly important role in multiplying those successes. If Ohio is to be competitive in the regional, national, and international arenas, we must continue to do a better job preparing all of our children for the modern world," Ms. Perz said.

Ms. Perz said that because Dr. Chambers has worked closely with her for several years, the transition will be seamless.



Dr. Chambers, a Certified School Improvement Facilitator, said that as the new director of OCCS she would focus on four key areas over the next year:

- **Streamline and promote successful oversight and compliance.**
- **Address chronic school academic underperformance and support schools with strong results.**
- **Strengthen internal operations and staff performance management.**
- **Foster collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders.**

#### **ABOUT DR. DARLENE CHAMBERS:**

Dr. Darlene Chambers is a rare combination of academician and private business consultant who has worked in a broad range of disciplines. She has more than 20 years of leading experience in human resources management and organizational development as an internal director and an external consultant. She has specialized in staff recruitment, onboarding and orientation, customer service, supervision, mid- and senior-level succession planning; talent and performance management; executive leadership coaching; self-directed work team implementation; training-curriculum development/facilitation; and, development and facilitation of leadership certifications in business, education, the health industry and government agencies. Contributing to the bottom-line through assessment and monitored ROI.

She has been working in the field of charter schools for 4 years, and has become a leading authority in the field specializing on student achievement testing, school operations and curriculum development, human resources and professional development, and special needs education.

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