



Education Center
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April 2009

Dear Scottsdale Unified School District Staff, Parents, Students and Community:

I want to take this opportunity to say hello to my new Scottsdale Unified School District family! I am very excited to be on board and look forward to meeting and working with each of you. As we look toward the end of our current fiscal year, we have a lot of challenges. Rest assured that I am on board and here to help.

I can tell already that I have joined an amazing team. The accomplishments within SUSD are incredible and really reflect what a great district this is!

Since I have not had a chance to meet everyone yet, I want to take this opportunity to let you know a little bit about me and my goals for SUSD.

First and foremost, my focus here will be our students. I believe all students can learn at high levels and that teachers cause that learning to occur. I also want to build relationships with the entire SUSD community – parents, students, employees and the community around us. To develop these relationships, I will be hosting office hours at each school. During these times, anyone is welcome to stop by to talk with me. The schedule of site visit office hours are posted, and I hope you will all take the opportunity to introduce yourselves during those times.

My educational credentials include a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University and a Masters and Doctorate of Education from Northern Illinois University.

I began my career as a teacher in Illinois. Six years after starting to teach in the Valley View School District, I moved into the role of Dean of Students and became an assistant principal the following year. After six years as an AP, I became principal, a role I stayed in for a decade. After that, I became superintendent-elect and, a year later, superintendent in the Thornton Township High School District (TTHSD).

Four years after becoming superintendent for TTHSD, I moved into a superintendent position with the Community Unit School District 200 in Wheaton, IL. I served as their leader for almost a decade. CUSD had more than 14,300 students in preschool through high school. I retired from this position in 2007, but really missed being involved in the school community and contributing to the education of our youth.

My professional accomplishments include serving as Instructional Leader for the Illinois Principals Association, as a consultant for the Educational Research and Development Institute and as Chairperson for the North Central Outcome Accreditation Team at an

area high school in Illinois. I have also served as a presenter at numerous local, state and national conferences.

On a more personal note, my lovely wife, Sharon, and I have been married for 25 years. We have three grown children and three grandchildren (the third was born in February!) My hobbies are golfing, jogging and spoiling the grandchildren!

Again, I am excited about meeting and getting to know all of you. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the 2009-10 school year—I'm sure we will continue to have one of the most prestigious districts in the state of Arizona because of all the dedicated, outstanding staff we have as well as our supportive community and fantastic students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary T. Catalani
Superintendent
Scottsdale Unified School District