
By CantonRep.com staff report

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Stark Education Partnership taps Teresa Purses as next president

Purses will replace Adrienne O'Neill, who plans to retire at the end of September after 15 years at the helm.

A nonprofit education reform support organization in Stark County has selected longtime educator Teresa J. Purses as its new president.

Purses, former superintendent of the Canton Local School District from 2002 until 2010, will join the Stark Education Partnership on Sept. 21, according to a news release from the partnership. Purses currently serves as the director of the Ohio Department of Education's State Support Team for Region 9, leading a team of 16 consultants in providing school improvement services in the region. A graduate of Malone University, Purses holds a master's and doctorate degree from Ashland University.

She will replace Adrienne O'Neill, who plans to retire at the end of September after 15 years at the helm.

"In my years in Stark County, I came to know Teresa very well," O'Neill said in the release. "She is a preeminent leader among educators in Stark County and throughout the state."

Purses has been involved with the Stark Education Partnership at many points during her career. In the early 1990s, shortly after the partnership began, she served on the design team of a number of successful projects, including the landmark SEEDS grant from the National Science Foundation to promote local science education.

"I look forward to working with all the local districts, colleges, universities, local businesses and all those concerned about education in our community to improve the quality of life for the residents of Stark County," Purses said in the release.

Founded in 1989 by local foundations, the Stark Education Partnership collaborates with educators, business, community and civic leaders to improve education. It often serves as a catalyst, such as its effort to form the first P-16 Compact in Ohio in 2002, which brought together area college presidents, school superintendents, business and civic leaders to work together toward the goal of increasing high school graduation and college-going rates.

For more information about the partnership, visit www.edpartner.org.

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