

May 31, 2022 For immediate release

Lori Susi Named Executive Director at Intensive Education Academy

Contact:

Christopher Joplin, Intensive Education Academy President

joplincw@gmail.com

WEST HARTFORD, CT – Intensive Education Academy of West Hartford is pleased to announce that Lori Susi has been appointed as the next Executive Director. Her start date is July 5, 2022.

Susi comes to IEA from the Center for Students With Disabilities at the University of Connecticut, where she is assistant director of Enhanced Services Programs. Susi has a wealth of experience in the education and business worlds. Before her time at UConn, she was a principal and assistant principal at schools in Lyme-Old Lyme, East Haddam and Salem; athletic director at Haddam-Killingworth High School; and a teacher in several school districts. Susi's career outside of education included work with Colonial Life and MCI Communications, in addition to operating a family business.



IEA was opened in 1971 and strives to provide students with special needs the opportunity to reach their full potential through a nurturing and individualized learning environment.

"IEA is thrilled to have Ms. Susi bring her talent and passion to our 'school built on love'," said Christopher Joplin, president of IEA. "We look forward to continuing to provide an excellent education and welcoming community for our students and families, and we are excited for IEA's next chapter under Ms. Susi's leadership."

Susi earned a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Communication from Southern Connecticut State University, plus a Masters Certification in Elementary Education and a Sixth-Year Degree in Education Leadership from SCSU.

"I feel fortunate and inspired by the positive energy and determined perspectives of the IEA staff, students, and families," Susi said. "I look forward to watching our students seek out new possibilities and feel the support of our teachers and staff everyday."

"Being an educator has always been a passion deep inside my heart," she said. "There is no other career that gives you the opportunity to make a visible difference in someone's life every day. I am optimistic that all of our students' hopes and dreams will come to fruition as they actively participate in their educational journey at the Intensive Education Academy and beyond."

Susi is replacing Jeffrey Forman, who will retire at the end of July after helping Susi transition into the leadership role. She was chosen from a highly qualified pool of applicants following a search facilitated by consultants from the Executive Searches team at Trumbull-based Cooperative Educational Services (CES). The consultants guided IEA's search committee through the decision-making process by providing a leadership profile based on results of feedback from the district's various stakeholders, and facilitating the interview process with candidates. The team employed an advanced interview technique proven to demonstrate a candidate's ability to be successful in the leadership position by assessing the candidates' leadership skills, qualities, and attributes against the established profile.

CES is one of the six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) established by the state legislature to provide supports and services to public school districts. The agency serves students and educators in Fairfield County, along with executive search services throughout the state. More information about CES can be found at www.cestrumbull.org.