



News Release

Contacts: Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
janelle.toman@sdbor.edu
Tracy Mercer, Information Research Analyst
tracy.mercer@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455
Fax: (605) 773-5320
www.sdbor.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Trefz Named School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Superintendent

ABERDEEN, S.D. – A long-time South Dakota educator has been named the next superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Aberdeen.

Dan Trefz (pronounced TREVZ) is currently superintendent, special education director, and food service director for the Miller School District in east central South Dakota. He has been Miller's superintendent since 2014, where he previously worked as a teacher and coach from 1999 to 2011. He also has experience as a former superintendent of the Bowdle School District and as a teacher and coach in Eureka.

"I am excited to join the staff at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Aberdeen community. The Board of Regents is committed to providing exceptional educational opportunities for students, and I hold the same conviction," Trefz said. "The school's campus is amazing and will provide a platform for the staff and students to excel. I am also excited to explore educational relationships with Northern State University staff and students. The location and interconnectivity with NSU gives the School for the Blind programming opportunities like no other in the nation."

The School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, part of the South Dakota Board of Regents' system, offers a full academic program for kindergarten through high school students. Enrollment on the Aberdeen campus averages about 24 students, with another 230-plus students statewide served by the school's outreach programs.

"Supt. Trefz brings broad experience leading school operations in a K-12 setting," said Regent Jim Thares, who co-chaired the search process. His search co-chair, Regent Jim Morgan, added, "Dan's leadership portfolio includes skills in budgeting, school law, buildings and grounds management, as well as project and personnel management. We are pleased to have him on board." Morgan noted that in Trefz's work as superintendent, he has become well versed in working with special student populations.

Trefz received his undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University, then earned his teaching certificate and a master's degree in secondary school administration from Northern State University. He holds a specialist degree from the University of Sioux Falls.

School for the Blind – 2

Trefz is expected to begin his duties at the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired after the current school term is completed. He replaces Marje Kaiser, who announced plans to retire in May after a 45-year career in special education, 10 of those years serving as superintendent for both SDSBVI and the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls. A search for the new superintendent at School for the Deaf is also underway. Interviews for that position are expected to be completed later this month.

Trefz's spouse, Nicole, and his daughter and son, Evelyn and Cade, will make the transition to the Aberdeen community as well. The family enjoys the outdoors and a variety of sporting activities.