

Weather Alert

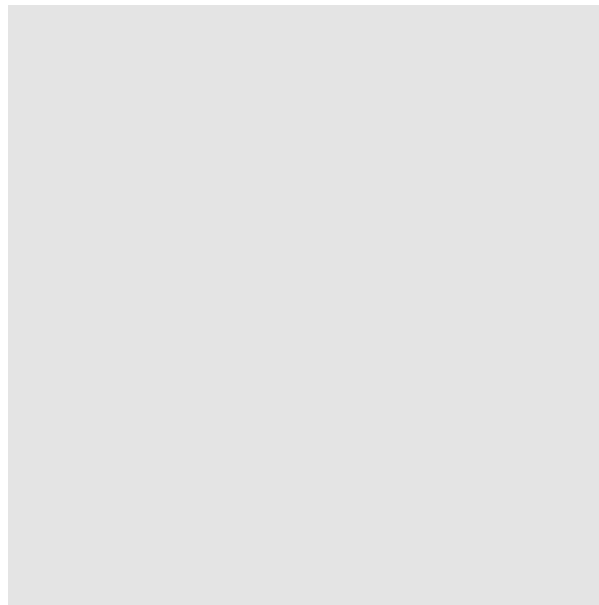
Special Weather Statement until 4:45PM CDT THU

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https://www.bgdailynews.com/news/wku-s-education-college-dean-builds-ties-with-school-district/article_e0eb8a1f-aebf-5322-97b5-ed6c7ef6853f.html

WKU's education college dean builds ties with school district leaders

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 8 hrs ago



Corinne Murphy

Submitted

Corinne Murphy, the new dean of Western Kentucky University's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, vowed Wednesday to make WKU more meaningful to regional school district leaders.

In her first meeting with regional superintendents at the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, Murphy laid out her priorities by promising to help school districts fill critical teacher and administrator positions and better capture personnel needs.

“I really want to make sure that at Western we’re doing our part to meet the regional need,” she said, adding that if districts have empty positions “it’s our job to fill them.”

“It’s our job to make sure that you have a strong and healthy hiring pool so that your districts are operating the way that they need to,” she said, inviting school leaders to offer input.

Formerly the interim vice provost at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Murphy stepped into her new role Aug. 1. She replaced Sam Evans, who retired in June.

Murphy holds a Ph.D. in special education and applied behavior analysis from Ohio State University, according to a news release. At Ohio State, she also received her master’s degree in applied behavior analysis and bachelor’s degree in psychology and speech and hearing science. Murphy’s research focus is on individuals with autism.

Murphy said she’s planning to tour regional school districts to help build ties to the university. “I will be coming out to see you and to hear about the joys and some of the opportunities that are in your districts,” she said.

The college will likely need those partnerships to navigate changes in teacher training.

Recently, the state’s Educational Professional Standards Board voted to approve a waiver that removed a requirement for teachers to earn their master’s degree by their 10th year of service.

WKU is also facing increased competition from the University of the Cumberlands, a private school that announced Tuesday it will slash its tuition by 57 percent beginning next academic year.



The plan applies to all on-campus, undergraduate students and reduces tuition for the 2019-20 academic year from \$23,000 to \$9,875.

“We want all students to know that with Cumberlands there is a clear and affordable path to a college degree,” Cumberlands President Larry L. Cockrum said in a news release announcing the change.

Bowling Green Independent School District Superintendent Gary Fields said Murphy realizes WKU and GRREC can work together to achieve similar goals. He sees the removal of the rank II requirement as an opportunity to create more valuable master’s degree programs.

GRREC Executive Director Tim Murley, who leads a cooperative of more than 40 Kentucky school districts, said he appreciated Murphy’s willingness to work with school district leaders.

“She seems very open and we appreciate that,” he said.

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MORE INFORMATION



WKU names new dean of College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

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Aaron Mudd

Education reporter. Covers education and related issues, focusing primarily on the Bowling Green and Warren County public school districts and Western Kentucky University.