



Press Release

November 15, 2011
For Immediate Release

NISD Announces New Executive Director of Curriculum and Staff Development

Northwest ISD is pleased to announce the hiring of Rob Thornell, Ed.D., as the district's new executive director of curriculum and staff development.

"Rob brings a strong background in professional development and school leadership," said Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., superintendent of schools for Northwest ISD. "We are excited to welcome Dr. Thornell in his new role, and I'm confident he will help our students achieve great successes."

Thornell is currently the principal at Northwest ISD's Chisholm Trail Middle School (CTMS) in Rhome where he has led the campus since 2007. Under his leadership, the school was named a "School to Watch" by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) in 2011. Prior to his career in Northwest ISD, he served as a principal for four years at Timberline Elementary in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and an assistant principal at Coppell Middle School East and Denton Creek Elementary in Coppell ISD.

"I am eager to begin this new opportunity," Thornell said. "I am looking forward to collaborating with teachers and principals across the district and continue to create an environment that challenges staff and students to excel beyond their potential."

Thornell graduated with a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, and earned his master's in education administration from the University of North Texas. In 2005, he earned his doctorate of education from Baylor University. Thornell is a certified National Institute for School Leadership facilitator and is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). He serves on the state board of directors for the Texas Middle School Association (TMSA). Thornell has presented across the nation at various conferences, with a recent School to Watch presentation, *Integrating Curriculum across Content Areas*, at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington D.C. last June.

Dr. Thornell will continue his position as principal of Chisholm Trail Middle School as the district launches a search for his replacement. Effective December 1, Thornell will transition into the executive director position and will begin full-time as soon as his successor at CTMS is hired. The current executive director for curriculum and staff development, Mike Schwei, Ed.D., will remain in his position at NISD through November 30.

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