

Foothill Principal Going Back to College

Henderson Home News

When Foothill High School principal Bob Johns opened Foothill in 1999, all went according to plan, according to Clark County School District officials, who consider his work there a treasure.

Johns, an educator for more than 28 years, has taken another step to better Southern Nevada and its educational system. Johns has accepted the position of interim director of admissions at the fledging Nevada State College at Henderson.

His move, which comes at a critical point in the early life of the new college, is part an attempt to better promote the college's teacher to later join the short-handed school district.

"Nevada State College is a strong place for the four-year degree program majoring and focusing on teaching nursing," Johns said of the college which plans to begin classes September 3.

He said his recruiting method is a two-pronged approach catering to two different types of students.

The first aspect, meant for current or recent high school graduates, will involve them in classroom internships at all grade levels throughout the community. Johns hopes this method will show students that teaching is all about.

The second approach focusing on what Johns terms "alternative license," will reach citizens who already have a bachelor's degree but are rethinking their careers. The program will allow them to make the change in a more expedient, easier manner.

"I hope that we can get past and present students excited about education," Johns said. "We have an extreme shortage."

With a great deal of teachers approaching retirement in the next five years, Johns says this is a crucial time for the educational system of Henderson and Southern Nevada as a whole. Whatever's lacking in Henderson will be lacking in Las Vegas as well.

"We need to get them in, get them in class, get them through an internship, and then get them out into the school district and into schools," Johns said.

"When this was presented to me, it really became a mission for me, both for the community's sake but mostly for the children's sake. Obviously, I think I have a passion for education. I think I know what it takes to create a good education."

Johns has been assisting the ever-expanding school district for some time. He was the assistant principal during the opening of two new schools and principal for the opening of another during his tenure.

"I know the school district very well," Johns said. "We have the support of the superintendent of the school district and I think I have a close touch to the young adults in High school now. My passion is for the importance of education and how important it is for a community to survive and flourish through education. Education can change anyone's life."

Clark County School District superintendent Carlos Garcia said "We support Mr. Johns' efforts to help use find more teachers so that we can continue to meet the instructional needs of our students."

Johns is taking what he calls a field of dreams approach – “if you build it, they will come.” The difference, he said, is that the young adults who enroll at Nevada State College here will be able to shape it.