



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW PRINCIPAL AT SCHOOL FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Tom Allison Takes the Helm at San Pasqual Academy In Escondido

San Pasqual Academy, the County of San Diego's first-in-the-nation residential education campus for adolescent foster youth welcomes a new principal to kick off the 2004-2005 school year.

Tom Allison, former assistant principal at Valley High School in Escondido, was hired as the new principal for the Academy, which began its fourth year of academic instruction this month.

"I'm excited at the opportunity to work at the Academy," said Allison, an educator in San Diego County for more than 10 years. "I have had experience working with many different groups of students, but the Academy presents a unique challenge to help students, many of whom have had unstable homes and educational histories."

The Academy, which opened in 2001 with tremendous support from the County Board of Supervisors, the County Office of Education and the generosity of local donors, provides youth with a stable, caring home, quality, individualized education and preparation for independent living. The Academy's comprehensive academic curriculum is based on the California State Standards and entrance requirements for the University of California system.

Allison's experience as an educator includes implementing new technologies and curricula to improve and expand educational opportunities, as well as helping to develop an instruction model focused on dealing with students' responses to conflict and adversity.

"The Academy has come so far in the past three years," said Allison. "It is my goal to continue moving forward and to look for every opportunity to ensure our students have the best possible education, and thereby, the best possible futures."

Classes began this month on September 1, with 105 high school students. The San Pasqual Academy Dragons football team has a 3-0 record so far, and the women's volleyball team has a record of 1-3.

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