



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2022

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Western Christian School (WCS) is pleased to announce that Dr. Janie Andrich has accepted the call to serve as the school's next Superintendent, officially beginning her position on August 10, 2022.

Dr. Andrich, or "Janie," as she prefers to be called, has demonstrated success and commitment at many levels of leadership in Christian education. "Janie has shown success in working in private school administration, and in all levels of Christian schools. Her leadership and approach in elementary, middle and at the high school level, was a big draw for the Search Committee. She has experience and credentials in administration roles at both the principal level and the superintendent level. Working in both smaller and larger private schools, she is familiar with a school structure like we have here at Western" said Chad Hochstetler, Chair of the School Board. "First and foremost, she is a committed Christian and wholeheartedly agrees with our mission statement and our core values. She demonstrates a collaborative leadership style and her record has shown a lifelong passion for Christian education, serving in California and around the world. Her faith guides her and will be a great fit to further the mission of WCS. Spending many years serving in similar-sized Lutheran schools, she understands the unique needs of Christian schools and understands how important Christian education is, especially now in our current environment. We were fortunate to find a candidate of her caliber given the shorter search timeframe."



In May, the school hired a local search firm to find potential candidates and also created a Search Committee to conduct the interviews. The Search Committee for was led by former board chair and alumnus Allen Schrock. The search team was comprised of 12-members including: parents, school board, alumni, former board members, faculty, staff and stakeholders. This group interviewed, followed up and recommended Dr. Andrich to the School Board. Janie interviewed first online and then in person also spending a day at Western seeing the campus and meeting with the board, admin team, staff and some teachers as well. She was well-received.

Dr. Andrich comes to WCS with a varied school leadership background. She has served as Principal, Assistant Superintendent as well as Superintendent in California, Shanghai, China, and most recently in Kuwait. She holds a Master in Curriculum and Instruction and an Educational Doctorate in School Leadership from Concordia Universities, Irvine, CA and Chicago, IL. Most of her career has been in the Christian School environment making her a positive addition to our dedicated and wonderful staff here at WCS.



Janie married her high school sweetheart, Craig, and they have been married for 40+ years. They are currently located near Los Angeles. They have three grown children as well as four grandsons. She enjoys spending time with her family, attending her grandson’s sporting events, going to the beach, and yearly large family camping trips to Jalama Beach, CA. In her spare time, she loves to read, do puzzles, and take walks. She looks forward to exploring outdoor activities in the Salem and surrounding areas.

The School Board is excited to introduce Dr. Janie Andrich to the Western Community. She is looking forward to meeting the faculty & staff, students, parents and alumni at WCS and working together to meet the needs of the students under our care. Dr. Andrich replaces former Superintendent, Al Stefan, whom served Western for the past five years and resigned at the end of this past school year.

About Western

Western Christian School (WCS) was originally founded by the Mennonite Church in 1945 as Western Mennonite School. In 2017, the school’s name changed to Western Christian School. WCS is located just northwest of Salem, Oregon, on a beautiful 45-acre wooded campus and currently serves over 400 students in grades K through 12. By partnering with families our mission is equipping students for a life of faith and learning by providing a Christ-centered educational experience highlighted by four key distinctions: academic excellence, nurturing community, enrichment opportunities, along with peacebuilding & service. Nearly 20 Christian denominations are represented on campus and WCS is accredited by Mennonite Education Agency and Cognia.