

NWAIS

Northwest Association
of Independent Schools



Mark Crotty

12 September 2018

Dear NWAIS Community,

We are excited to announce that NWAIS has appointed Mark Crotty as the next Executive Director of the association. The NWAIS Board of Governors unanimously confirmed Mark Crotty's appointment following the recommendation of the Search Committee. Mark will assume the duties of ED on 1 July 2019 following the retirement of Siri Akal Khalsa.

Mark comes to us from St. John's Episcopal School in Dallas, Texas where he is completing his ninth year as Head of School. During his time at St. John's, Mark helped the board and parent church greatly improve their governance practices. Under his headship, the school increased both annual giving and admission inquiries, instituted a 1:1 iPad program, and developed an award-winning service learning program.

Mark has also served as a Trustee on the Boards of both the Independent Schools of the Southwest (ISAS) and the Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). In ISAS, Mark also served on the Standards Committee for six years.

During the interview with the Search Committee – and in meetings with the NWAIS staff and the Board – Mark's experience, warmth, intellectual curiosity, and enthusiasm shone through. He demonstrated a deep and broad understanding of independent schools and the challenges and opportunities facing independent schools and independent school associations in the future. Mark also expressed and demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm for the initiatives undertaken by NWAIS and an authentic desire to build on our innovative work. In Mark's own words, "Clearly NWAIS is an exciting, dynamic association, one which shares my fundamental optimism about the vital role of independent education." Mark's references praised him as a thought leader who is voraciously curious and eager to collaborate with others.

The opportunity to lead such a vibrant and innovative association attracted an extraordinarily strong pool of candidates. Mark's appointment is the end result of a long and thorough process that started with surveys of the association membership and included long semi-finalist interviews and meetings with the Board and the office staff at NWAIS. We are grateful to everyone who participated in the process, and we would particularly like to thank the members of the Search Committee: Percy Abram, Joan Beauregard, Jenn Elkin, and Jeremy Gregersen.

Although Mark's appointment officially begins 1 July 2019, there will be opportunities for him to visit the area, the office, and some of our schools before then. Mark will be joined in Seattle by his wife, Sallie, who is an English teacher and writer. Mark and Sallie also have two children in college, Kate and Stephen. We look forward to welcoming the entire Crotty family to the Pacific Northwest and to the NWAIS community.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Codrington-Cazeau
President, Board of Governors

Russell Smith
Chair, Search Committee