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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2024

Carteret County Public Schools Names Interim Principal for West Carteret High School

Carteret County Public Schools announces that Ms. Carolyn Heller will serve as the interim principal of West Carteret High School beginning in January of 2025, aligning with the start of the new semester.

Ms. Heller brings a wealth of experience and deep ties to the Carteret County school community. She previously served as the principal of Newport Middle School from 2018 to 2020 and West Carteret High School from 2007 to 2018. Prior to that, she was an assistant principal at West Carteret High School from 2003 to 2007 and an exceptional children's teacher at West Carteret High School and in Illinois.

"I am honored to return to the West Carteret High School family and to work alongside its expert staff and faculty," said Ms. Heller. "I am excited to once again be part of the supportive community that surrounds and uplifts this school. Once a Patriot, always a Patriot!"

Her academic credentials include a master's degree in school administration from East Carolina University, a master's degree in curriculum and education from National-Louis University, and a bachelor's degree in education from Northern Illinois University.

Superintendent Richard Paylor expressed confidence in the appointment, stating, "We are confident that Ms. Carolyn Heller's extensive experience and familiarity with our district will provide stability and strong leadership for West Carteret during this transition."

This leadership change follows the announcement that current Principal, Mr. Cory Johnson, will be relocating to the Raleigh area, accepting a teaching position in the Wake County Public School System.

Superintendent Paylor extended his gratitude to Mr. Johnson for his service, noting, "Best wishes to Mr. Johnson as he embarks on his newest endeavors. Carteret County has been fortunate to benefit from his dedication and commitment to our schools and students."

The Carteret County Public Schools community looks forward to welcoming Ms. Heller into this role and ensuring a smooth transition at West Carteret High School.

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