

Following unanimous votes by the Head Search Committee and the Board of Trustees, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mo Copeland as the next Head of School for Oregon Episcopal School.

Mo Copeland is a seasoned head who has served in that position at Saint George's School in Spokane, Washington, for 10 years. She is a master teacher who has taught in well-respected schools on both coasts. She has a proven track record of leadership, effective management, and fundraising, and she has built internal and external community at Saint George's by valuing relationships, working collaboratively, and exercising thoughtful decisiveness when needed. Mo is also a respected leader, peer, and mentor in the greater independent school network, recently serving as president of the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools Board of Governors. She appreciates and values the Pacific Northwest lifestyle and is an outdoor enthusiast.

Mo will begin her tenure as Head of School on July 1, 2011. A team is being appointed to coordinate the many activities that will be necessary to ensure a smooth and successful transition over the next eight months. More information will be provided once the team members are confirmed.

I would like to thank the many individuals whose dedication and commitment to the future of OES has brought us to this point. The Head Search Committee members devoted countless hours over the summer to the essential task of identifying and recruiting our new head. We owe them a considerable debt of gratitude.

Thank you also to the many parents, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae/i who engaged with the process by participating in the input groups, attending the forums, or providing feedback on the candidates.

In addition, I'd like to especially thank and recognize Kathy Layendecker for her outstanding leadership and commitment to OES as Acting and Interim Head of School for the past 17 months. I am extremely grateful that she will continue to lead the school for the rest of this school year. Kathy and the Administrative Team – who also fully deserve our gratitude and appreciation – are now excited to be working with Mo to ensure that the strategic planning and visioning work accomplished this past year continue to advance the mission of the school.

With the search process now concluded, the important work of transition begins. Please join me in welcoming Mo to her new position and offering both her and her family our support as they prepare to finish their work in Spokane and join the OES community.

Sincerely,

Steve Grant, President, OES Board of Trustees