



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MARK A. HOLODICK, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RALPH ACKERMAN
President, Board of Education

JOHN SKROBOT, III
Vice President, Board of Education

After ten years as Superintendent of the Brandywine School District, Dr. Mark Holodick announced to staff on October 16 that he will be joining the Delaware Academy for School Leadership (DASL) at the University of Delaware as a senior leadership specialist.

Dr. Holodick, a well-respected and award-winning school administrator, will serve as the lead faculty for DASL's Principal Preparation Program beginning in February 2020.

"Mark understands the complexity of school improvement as well as the skills and knowledge principals need to lead complex school systems," said Jackie Wilson, director of DASL and assistant professor in UD's School of Education. "His experience as a former principal and current superintendent will be instrumental in helping DASL continue to revolutionize the principal preparation field in Delaware and beyond as we partner with school districts to invest in principal pipeline programs."

BSD School Board President Ralph Ackerman and Vice President John Skrobot III issued a joint statement about Superintendent Holodick's tenure with BSD. "Dr. Mark Holodick has served as Superintendent of the Brandywine School District with distinction for ten years. In that time, he has focused on not only the critical matters of student achievement and student safety, but also equity, school climate, inclusion, and increasing opportunities both within and outside the classroom. Under his leadership, BSD's reputation as a district of choice has remained strong, with steady enrollment growth, a robust catalog of enrichment opportunities, great parent and community engagement, and of course a rigorous curriculum. While we are sorry to see him move on, we know that BSD is better for having had him as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent."

In his new role at DASL, Holodick will leverage his decades of experience in education leadership to coach teachers, principals and assistant principals as they take the next step in their careers. In addition to leading DASL's Principal Preparation Program, Holodick will also coordinate the Executive Leadership Program for aspiring superintendents. He will also conduct research in collaboration with school districts as well as design and facilitate research-informed professional development for school leaders in school districts and charter schools.

"Having Mark Holodick join the College of Education and Human Development will catalyze our efforts to turn research into practice. His experiences in Delaware schools will be a distinct asset and we welcome him back to the University of Delaware in his new role," said Gary T. Henry, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Holodick became Superintendent of the Brandywine School District in 2009 and currently oversees 16 schools serving over 10,000 students. During that time, he has focused on expanding the district's STEM curriculum, as well as the performing and visual arts. Prior to being named Superintendent, Dr. Holodick was a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal.

As Superintendent, he has supported the implementation of research-informed programs in literacy and mathematics, supported teachers and principals by providing professional development and coaching by PDCE and DASL, and provided professional development to the entire staff to improve cognitive skills, including critical thinking and problem solving, as well as empathy, tolerance and respect.

Pastor David Pope, who operates the Achievers Academy student leadership program in all six BSD secondary schools, said, "In the 15 years we have operated the Achievers Academy within the Brandywine School District working with Dr. Mark Holodick in his roles as both principal and superintendent, I have been extremely impressed with his commitment to ensure equity and opportunity for all students and families. He truly believes that every student should have the opportunity to experience a rich, fulfilling education that prepares them for success in whatever they pursue after graduation. It gives me great hope for the next generation that he will now share his talents and his passion with educators across our state, and possibly beyond our state, to inspire others and ultimately impact even more students and families in a positive way."

Dr. Holodick was named statewide Superintendent of the Year in 2017 and Delaware School Administrator of the Year in 2016. He earned his Ed.D. from UD in 2008.