
Korin Hall promoted to STEM academy principal

HOLYOKE – Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto released an announcement Wednesday morning regarding the new leadership at the STEM Academy:

“I am pleased to announce that Director of STEM Korin Hall at Holyoke STEM Academy will be our new STEM Academy Principal beginning July 1. She will replace Sal Canata, who has served as STEM Academy Principal since 2019.

We are grateful for the passionate leadership that both Canata and Hall have brought to our STEM Academy, and we appreciate that they will work together to achieve a smooth transition over the next few months. We are also grateful that Mr. Canata isn't leaving Holyoke. He's a valued member of our educational team, and we are thrilled that he will be returning to his first love of classroom teaching and special education this fall. Canata has developed a wealth of knowledge and skills as a seasoned school administrator serving nine years as a principal and 13 years as an assistant principal, first in Northampton and later in Holyoke. At our STEM Academy, Canata helped build a strong student and staff culture, implemented a Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) system to create a community, and led and trained the leadership team that is poised to move the school forward in the coming year. Why is Canata returning to the classroom? We have been experiencing staff shortages in our schools recently, including at the STEM Academy, so he has been teaching classes daily this year and loving it. We wish him continued success in his return to teaching full-time while also welcoming Hall to her new role.

Hall came to HPS in 2018, leaving

Springfield Public Schools where she had been a high school history teacher to become part of the start-up leadership team for our new Holyoke STEM Academy. Over the past four years, Hall has proved herself to be an excellent school administrator, and I am confident she will continue to capably support her staff and students in her new role as principal.

For those not familiar with Hall's background, she will proudly tell you she came to teaching in her late 30s, after pursuing a variety of other interests. She worked in construction, as a plumber's apprentice, and at Smith & Wesson before figuring out her true passion: education. She credits her mom for inspiring her to go on to college—actually four colleges and four degrees—after her mother graduated from Holyoke Community College through the Women in Transition Program. Attending her mom's graduation ceremony was a “light bulb” moment for Hall. She knew then that she, too, could go to college and pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. Hall soon enrolled at Holyoke Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in education. Then it was on to Smith College where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, and then a master's degree in education from UMass Amherst through the 180 Days in Springfield program. She also earned a Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies to become a certified school administrator through American International College in Springfield. I am so proud of all Hall has accomplished in Holyoke so far, and I know she will accomplish even more as our STEM principal. Please join me in congratulating her on this promotion.”