

Statewide Email

DATE SENT: July 8, 2021

FROM: Henry Mack, Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

TO: District Career and Technical Education Directors
Florida College System Workforce Administrators
District Adult Education Directors
Florida College System Adult Education Directors

Via: Chancellor2@fldoe.org

SUBJECT: Welcome to New Team Members

Colleagues,

I am excited to announce that the following individuals have recently joined the Division of Career and Adult Education and Office of Articulation within the Department of Education. Each new member brings impressive experience and expertise to the mission of advancing quality workforce education and training programs for our students and adult learners. Please join me in welcoming them!!

NiñaFe Awong | Director, Career & Technical Education

NiñaFe has joined us as the new Director of Career and Technical Education, overseeing all standards, benchmarks, and frameworks for K12 and postsecondary career and technical education programs (i.e., clock hour certificates, college credit certificates, associate of science/applied science, advance technical diplomas/certificates, etc). NiñaFe succeeds Eric Owens, who recently retired after many years of dedicated service to the state and its students. NiñaFe holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Amberton University, and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education. She has held leadership roles in the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, where she was charged with providing strategic leadership for two newly created departments. After relocating to Florida, she became a secondary and post-secondary educator. As an educator, NiñaFe has held positions as a Business Education Teacher, Dean of Students, Career and Technical Education Learning Resource Specialist, Osceola Business Academy Coordinator and Associate Faculty of Business. She holds a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt designation and is a Certified Public Manager (CPM). Throughout her career in education, NiñaFe has demonstrated her passion and commitment to helping students, as well as enhancing fellow educators' ability to prepare students for the future. She intends to bring the same level of commitment and energy to her new role. She can be reached at Ninafe.Awong@fldoe.org

Jessica Maddox | Program Specialist, Office of Research and Evaluation

Henry Mack
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

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A Florida native, Jessica (Jessi) is a double graduate of Florida State University with a BS in Social Science Education & Masters of Science in Information. She spent six years teaching Social Studies at the middle school level before attending graduate school in 2017, and began her career with the Department of Education in 2018 as a contractor for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. When not spending time with her husband and step-son, she can be found at the gym, playing video games, or playing roller derby with the Tallahassee Roller Girls. Currently, she is expecting her first (biological) child in October 2021. She can be reached at Jessica.Maddox@fldoe.org

Dr. Ashley Yopp | Bureau Chief, Adult Education

Ashley Yopp is a native of North Carolina and has worked in secondary and post-secondary education for the past 12 years as a high school agriculture teacher, teacher educator, and research scientist. Ashley received a BA in Political Science from East Carolina University, a MS in Agricultural Education from North Carolina A&T State University, and a PhD in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication from Texas A&M University. As a teacher educator and scientist at the University of Georgia, Ashley's STEM Integration and Research Development Laboratory focused on understanding workforce needs to build interdisciplinary capacities for the future of work in rural Georgia. Additionally, her experiences include designing and delivering teacher education programs and in-service professional development as well as facilitating instruction in organizational ethics, leadership, and change, strategic communications, and research methodology. Ashley credits her experiences as a high school student in Agricultural Education as the catalyst for her life and career as an advocate for Career and Technical Education. Ashley can be reached at Ashley.Yopp@fldoe.org

Rachel Ludwig | Director, Professional Development & Provider Performance

Originally from Wisconsin, Rachel joins us as a former education/faculty member in the Wisconsin Technical College System where she was an ABE/GED/ESOL faculty member. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin and a Master's degree in Adult, Continuing, and Literacy Education from National-Louis University. In her role as ABE/GED/ESOL faculty in the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), she participated in the ESL Pro statewide cohort, Teaching Fellows cohort, and curriculum writing efforts in ABE and ESOL. She also facilitated the GED orientations on campus and worked collaboratively with Workforce Development and Student Services to connect students to resources. She led faculty development training and presented at state conferences on topics related to student success, incorporating group work, active learning strategies, utilizing technology in the classroom, and online teaching/learning. She was instrumental in creating more online learning options to increase student access to learning, including an online orientation option for students. She utilized her content knowledge in ABE/GED/ESOL and language skills to develop a new bilingual GED program. Rachel will oversee all our professional development activities for adult education. In addition, she will be working closely with providers and program administrators on strategies for improving local and regional performance. Rachel can be reached at Rachel.Ludwig@fldoe.org

Alexandria Armstrong | Director, Career, Technical & Adult Education Articulation

Alexandria earned her Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies from The Florida State University, and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Alexandria's work in higher education has focused on student enrollment and retention, evaluation and articulation, and advising. Most recently, she worked within the Office of the Registrar at Morgan State University as an Evaluation and Articulation Specialist. Alexandria is passionate about developing strategies that enhance the student experience through seamless transitions within education and career pathways. Her work will be dedicated to helping the Department execute on critical career, technical, and adult education articulation-related opportunities, such as developing more statewide non-credit to credit articulation agreements, and associate in science to bachelor in science agreements. She can be reached at Alexandria.Armstrong@fldoe.org

Welcome, again!

Best,

Henry

Henry Mack

Chancellor

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