



NEWS RELEASE

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COE hires new Director of Media & Communications

SAN JOSE, CA – Ken Blackstone has been named the new Director of Media & Communications for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. He most recently served as the Executive Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships for Richland School District Two, a district of about 27,000 students and 40 schools in Columbia, SC. Originally from the Northern Virginia metro area of Washington, D.C., Blackstone has more than 25 years of experience in school communications and public and media relations.

“We are very pleased that Mr. Blackstone will be joining the Santa Clara County Office of Education,” said Superintendent Xavier De La Torre. “His vast experience will directly support our mission to serve, inspire and promote student and public school success, to which we are deeply committed.”

As Director of Media & Communications, Blackstone will oversee all communications with the public, news media and SCCOE staff. He will coordinate media services, print publications, video and digital content, graphic design and special event production.

Prior to his experience in South Carolina, Blackstone served as the Director of Communication Services for Prince William County Public Schools in Manassas, Va., the second largest school district in Virginia, serving more than 80,000 students and 90 schools. There, he led all of the internal and external communications efforts including the oversight of the district’s website, cable-access TV channel, publications, recognitions and special events, and government, media and public relations.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from The Ohio State University and the Accredited in Public Relations (APR) certification from the Universal Accreditation Board. He is also an active member in the National School Public Relations Association.