

## NEWS RELEASE

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### SCCOE hires new STEAM Director

**SAN JOSE, CA** – Esther Tokihiro has been named the new Director of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Initiative within the Curriculum and Instruction Department of the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Tokihiro most recently served as the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator (VAPA) on the office’s STEAM team for the last two and a half years.



“Esther’s passion and commitment to student success as well as her vast experience in education will surely take the STEAM Initiative to the next level,” said Melissa Christie, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). “The numerous partnerships she developed as a VAPA Coordinator will be built upon and expanded as she sees her vision for what is possible realized together with the amazing members of the STEAM team.”

Tokihiro began her new appointment on June 16. As Director of the STEAM Initiative, Tokihiro will oversee the STEAM team’s content area specialists to provide standards-based content and integrated professional development for teachers, support for districts, and to serve as a liaison for community partnerships and networks.

"I'm very honored to continue the high-quality work with our award-winning STEAM team, a group of the best and brightest content professionals who have a passion for integrated learning," Tokihiro said. "I am looking forward to leading us into the next stages of the initiative's growth."

Tokihiro brings more than 30 years of educational experience to her new role, having worked as a program manager, curriculum resource specialist, site administrator, and in the classroom. Prior to her experience with the SCCOE, Tokihiro served as a site administrator for Cambrian School District’s Ida Price Middle School.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education, a professional diploma in secondary education, a master’s degree in secondary education, and a master’s degree in educational administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Tokihiro earned a California Administrative Credential from Santa Clara University.

She also has a wide breadth of community involvement, having served on the CreateCA Leadership Council, City of San Jose's Office of Cultural Affairs Committee for San Jose Creates and Connects, Center for Asian American Arts Media San Jose Advisory Council, KQED Arts School Working Group, and Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce's Leadership San Jose.

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