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New Superintendent Comes to Center Grove from Innovative Tenure in Edinburgh

INDIANAPOLIS—After four years as Superintendent and Director of Special Education of the Edinburgh Community School Corporation, Richard A. Arkanoff has accepted a new challenge as Superintendent of the Center Grove Community School Corporation. He will begin work July 1. *“I am excited about this new opportunity,” said Arkanoff. “I look forward to building relationships by working with teachers, parents and administrators to overcome the current challenges facing Center Grove. My decisions are always based on what is best for the students.”*

Arkanoff is known, as a team player with the ability to bring harmony. He has a strong knack for identifying talent and putting it to work for the betterment of the entire corporation. Arkanoff says he will seek to bring stability to the district. *“Center Grove is a world-class organization and I will seek to insure it’s continued success. I’m in it for the long hall. We want to find ways to deal with the challenges without affecting the classrooms. We will listen to the ideas of the community and staff, while working with the school board to insure that the Center Grove School Corporation is something we can all be proud of.”*

Arkanoff worked for five years as a principal at East Side Elementary School, Edinburgh Middle School and Director of Technology before becoming Superintendent and Director of Special Education for ECSC. He is proud of the gains in academics and extracurricular activities and innovative use of technology. *“The wonderful staff and teachers are the people who made a difference in Edinburgh schools,” he said. “I’m just glad to have been a part of it.”*

Arkanoff’s tenure saw the implementation of innovative programs at ECSC:

- ECSC worked with the Simon Youth Foundation and two other school corporations to create the first rural Education Resource Center in the nation. This state-of-the-art program increased the graduation rate by 10 percent in the first year, achieved a 100 percent graduation rate for ERC students its second year, and helped ECSC achieve a 95.9 percent graduation rate in 2010.
- ECSC worked with a neighboring school district to obtain multiple grants to institute a one-to-one laptop program for all students at Edinburgh Middle School and then Edinburgh High School. This program has reduced textbook rental, increased student engagement and provided students the opportunity to develop the 21st Century technology skills necessary for workplace success.
- In Johnson County ECSC was the first school corporation to adopt full-day kindergarten at no additional cost and the first to develop and pilot a Response to Intervention (RTI) program.

- Third grade test scores vastly improved, jumping from 71.2% to 92.5% for Language Arts and 67.7% to 79% for Math.
- Sports and clubs saw increased extra-curricular student participation well as huge community support and involvement of school events. From not winning a sectional title in the previous 37 years, Edinburgh teams earned five titles in the last two years.

Arkanoff, along with his wife Beth and two young children Richard (9) and Emma (8) have been residents of Johnson County for the past nine years. He has served on the United Way Board and currently serves on the board of The Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County, Leadership Johnson County and the Board of Directors for Johnson County Special Services.

“My family and I are thrilled that we have the opportunity to continue serving right here in Johnson County,” said Arkanoff.

He served as President of the Indiana Association of School Superintendents South Central Study Council and was a Pi Lambda Theta Honor Graduate.

Arkanoff is completing a Doctor of Education degree in School Administration from Capella University. He has also earned Education Specialist degrees in School Administration and Special Education Administration and a Masters degree in School Administration, all from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Before joining ECSC, Arkanoff was Special Education Department Head and Assistant Principal at IPS School #49 and a sergeant in the U.S. Army (1985-1991).

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