

SPRD: Interim director has deep well of experience

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employee for five years, where she helped build staff morale after reorganizing the IT department. She also served as the interim director of the COCC Redmond campus for about six months where she conducted an analysis of the budget structure.

She is currently serving as a member of the Jefferson County School District 509-J school board. Snead owns her own consulting business headquartered in Madras, called Boring But Necessary LLC, serving as a consultant to businesses and organizations just like SPRD that need some reorganization and streamlining.

She believes she brings to SPRD her unique perspective gained over the years as staff, board member, community member, and consultant. She has worked in both political and non-political environments.

Snead said, “I have an understanding of the moving pieces and I have the advantage of coming from the outside looking in. I will bring a positive approach to the position.”

Snead believes she is stepping into a “great situation with the voters having approved the levy last May.” She hopes to “galvanize the staff” and “chart the path forward.”

This past Monday was her first day at the helm. Since the departure of previous executive Todd Garrett, board chair Jeff Tryens has been overseeing the day-to-day operations at SPRD and working with staff. The board and staff, in two weeks time, conceived and held a new summer event called D-ATE Night, held at Village Green Park and attended by over 350 people.

Snead told the board that talking with each staff member one-on-one would be the first step in rebuilding staff morale. She places great importance on building trusting relationships and believes “listening to really hear” what is being said is key.

“I love this stuff,” she said in reference to policies and procedures.

She sees internal controls of finances as crucial to the health of any business. Establishing clear policies and procedures for all employees and human resources-related issues is one of her goals. She also expects to work with the board to prioritize programs and create a solid cost-recovery plan.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Courtney Snead is the interim executive director at SPRD.

When asked what success would look like at the end of her tenure at SPRD, she responded, “We will be meeting the needs of all.” She went on to say, “The new executive director will have a clear picture of what needs to be done moving forward, giving that person the opportunity to focus on the community piece.”

Snead closed her interview by telling the board, “I am a public servant in my heart trying to meet the needs of the community in everything I do.”

She told *The Nugget* after being selected for the interim position, “I am really excited about this opportunity to serve SPRD as the interim director. I’m looking forward to getting to know the staff and learning more about the organization and community.”

LUKENS: Sisters grad seeks to help the homeless

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senior year of high school.

“I would’ve never learned all that I have if it wasn’t for my journey with the choir. I felt as if I grew in every area on the long journey I took in the choir,” she said.

Lukens was in the Sisters High School Jazz Choir for four years and starred in two high school musicals, including most recently as Cinderella in last year’s musical. Lukens has also started writing original songs and submitting them to choir festivals throughout Oregon. She was awarded by one Songwriter of the Year, and her song was used as the song students learned and performed at a camp in Eugene.

“Having those opportunities really motivated me to keep on writing my own songs to be performed,” she said.

Lukens is now in contact with a man who has asked her to write original songs for TV.

“He sells songs to TV shows, and has asked me to write some of the songs he uses,” she said.

Lukens plans on continuing writing through school.

Lukens will be attending University of Chester in England as part of their three-year bachelor’s degree program. She will be seeking a degree in social work.

“I want to eventually be head of a nonprofit as well as work with getting children out of abusive situations,” she said.

Lukens plans on joining the choir at university and plans on continuing to have performing as an avocation.

“It’s something I love so much and will keep as a hobby throughout pursuing my degree,” she said.

One of the reasons Lukens came up with the idea of doing a concert fundraiser was to combine her social work interests and her musical interests into something that benefits people in her community.

“I love volunteer work and thought this would be a good way to intertwine two things I love very much,” she said. “I really want to inspire young people to go out there and make things happen if they want to. I’m creating an opportunity for myself, while also benefitting others. I think that’s a way we can solve a lot of the worlds’ problems, go out and make a path for yourself while also benefitting others.”

The fundraiser, titled “Looking Forward,” will take

place from 4 to 5 p.m. on August 26 at Bend Methodist Church, 680 NW Bond St., in Bend. Cellist Amy Wheeler will also perform. Lukens will be performing featured songs from “The Greatest Showman,” “Phantom of the Opera” and Disney’s “Moana” along with a number of other musical arrangements. All songs are family-friendly and everyone is welcome.

“I think that’s a way we can solve a lot of the worlds’ problems, go out and make a path for yourself while also benefitting others.”
— Alana Lukens

A \$5 donation is suggested but anyone is welcome to benefit the Backdoor Café which serves breakfast, provides medical care, and social work resources to those in need from 7 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays. For more information on the Backdoor Café and “Looking Forward” call Bend Methodist Church at 541-382-1672.



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