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## Principal of the thing

### New principals start at Wilson and Los Altos High Schools

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Wilson High School's new principal Elena Paul lays down the cell phone law with senior Henry Chanf, 18, at the entrance of the Hacienda Heights school on the first day of class on Aug. 27. (Photos by Raul Roa / Staff)

It was a wild day for the Wilson High Wildcats.

Willy the Wildcat, the school's mascot aka senior Aftin Jaramillo, joined the cheerleaders as they welcomed students back to the Hacienda Heights campus on Aug. 27.

Even Superintendent Barbara Nakaoka came to greet the students, as well as the new principal Elena Paul.

Paul replaces longtime principal Albert Clegg, who is now the district's executive director for secondary education assessment.

Previously an assistant principal at Cleveland High School in the San Fernando Valley, Paul was happy to get the new job in Hacienda Heights.

"I was pleasantly surprised when they offered me the job. I've very excited to be here," Paul said.

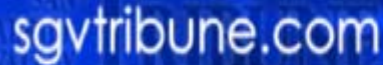


Cheli McReynolds replaces William Roberts as the principal at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights. (Photo courtesy of Los Altos High School)

The Korean educator said she had been to Wilson High many times for activities sponsored by the Chinese American Parents Advisory Council.

"The council told me about the opening and encouraged me to apply," Paul said.

She has bachelor's degrees in English and art



education, as well as a master's degrees in art education and education leadership. Most were earned from Cal State Northridge.

"I was also the only Korean college counselor in Southern California," Paul noted.

One of her goals at Wilson is to revive the academic decathlon team.

Paul is not the only new principal in the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District this year.

Cheli McReynolds is replacing William Roberts, the former principal at Los Altos High School who has moved to the district offices to become director of human resources.

McReynolds comes from Monrovia High School, where she was assistant principal in charge of curriculum, assessment and accountability.

"I've known Al Clegg for many years, we worked together in Temple City and Monrovia schools. Last year, I came out to Wilson High several times to see their biolab program," McReynolds said. "He's always talked highly about the Hacienda La Puente Unified, so when I heard about the opening at Los Altos I had to apply."

McReynolds said she's always believed in being a "risktaker, you have to take chances to succeed."

She likes to illustrate this by using her marriage as an example.

"I met my husband on a blind date set up by my aunt when I was a senior at Missouri Western State College. The next day I told my dad that this was the man I was going to marry," McReynolds explained.

She said she saw her husband only four times over the next year, though the telephone bills were tremendous.

"Shortly after graduation I moved to California to marry him," McReynolds said.

The happily-married couple have two children.



Elena Paul is the new principal at Wilson High School.

Hacienda La Puente Unified also announced several other personnel changes.

Bonnie Wilson, the enthusiastic former principal of the Baldwin Academy, has been promoted to executive director for leadership development.

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A rash of principals have been transferred to different schools. Jan Castle is going from Workman Elementary to Baldwin Academy, while Arlene Gallego comes to Workman from Shadybend Elementary.

Principal Cynthia Gomez moves from Los Molinos Elementary to Valinda School. Angela Lin, the former assistant principal at Orange Grove Middle School, replaces Gomez.

Kevin Maldonado comes from Valley High to become the assistant principal at Orange Grove Middle School.

Other changes at the district office on Gale Avenue include Maureen Scanlon's title changing from assistant superintendent to associate superintendent for human resources.

Interim Assistant Superintendent Linda Cordero has been named executive director of the multilingual school-based program.

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