



LOUISIANA
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Dr. David Martin
Superintendent

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Directors for LSD and LSVI Announced

BATON ROUGE, LA – New executive directors for the Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD) and for the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI) have been announced. Dr. Natalie Delgado will head up the school for the deaf, and Susan Covington will lead the school for the visually impaired.

“After an exhaustive search, I am excited to announce that we have made a selection for both LSD and LSVI executive directors,” said Louisiana Special School District (LASSD) Superintendent Dr. David Martin. “For several years, LSD and LSVI have been on uncertain paths as changes in leadership left the schools without a clear plan to move forward,” Dr. Martin continued.

Dr. Natalie Delgado, a native of Baton Rouge, currently the statewide outreach director of Deaf Education at LSD, said of her appointment, “I am deeply honored to accept the role of Executive Director of Louisiana School for the Deaf. My commitment to our school, staff, families, and community has been unwavering; I am excited to collaborate with our talented team and engage our partners and supporters throughout Louisiana.”

“Dr. Delgado brings a strong understanding of the strengths and challenges facing LSD, and her unique expertise in deaf education will benefit students and families across Louisiana,” said Dr. Martin.

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Innivee Strategies, a deaf-led consulting firm, led the search for the LSD Executive Director, in addition to the search committee, comprising of LASSD staff and alumni.

Susan Covington, a native of Brusly, Louisiana, currently an instructional support strategist for LASSD, believes every student can meet his or her maximum learning potentials when provided with high-quality curriculum, including the Expanded Core Curriculum. “It is truly an honor being selected the Executive Director for LSVI,” said Covington. “I cannot wait to see all of the students, staff, teachers, and parents, and begin our work together to make this school year (2023-2024) amazing,” Covington continued.

Covington says that LSVI must encourage students to dream big and believe that with hard work, anything is possible.

“I am excited to begin building relationships and partnerships, and creating a positive culture where everyone wants to be a part of the great things happening at LSVI.”

“Susan will be an invaluable part of my executive team here at LASSD. She brings with her seven years of experience at LSVI and believes, as I do, in a strong culture of honesty, transparency, and accountability,” said LASSD Superintendent Dr. David Martin.

“I would like to extend a special thank you to both search committees. They have been dedicated and thorough throughout the process. I would also like to thank the community as a whole for participating in feedback opportunities as we have progressed throughout the searches,” said Dr. Martin.

Finalists for both positions participated in a public forum held at the LASSD offices. Dr. Delgado and Ms. Covington began their new roles on July 31, 2023.

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About the Louisiana Special School District

The Louisiana Special School District (LASSD) became an independent educational services agency on July 1, 2021. The LASSD is governed by a 12 member board and led by Superintendent, Dr. David Martin, who was appointed on May 1, 2023. The agency operates the Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD), the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI) – commonly referred as LSDVI – and the Special Schools Programs (SSP), which administers special education services in the Office of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Health sites across the state. The LASSD currently operates schools and programs at 16 sites including the LSDVI campus located in Baton Rouge. To learn more about SSD, visit: <https://www.ssdofla.org>.

Dr. Natalie Delgado

Dr. Natalie Delgado is a Deaf Latina trilingual educator fluent in ASL, English, and Spanish. Delgado has a bachelor's degree in psychology, master's degree in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, and doctoral degree in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. She is currently the statewide outreach director of Deaf education at the Louisiana School for the Deaf and has worked in Deaf education for thirteen years, with past roles including outreach coordinator, elementary and high school teacher, substitute teacher, early interventionist, and beyond. Within her department, she oversees an early intervention program that serves Deaf and hard-of-hearing children ages birth to 5 and their families, as well as consultations, training, and other supports for school-age Deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their school professionals. She also works closely with the Louisiana School for the Deaf staff, along with various statewide, regional, and national agencies and service providers to support the families and students served within her department. Delgado is a strong advocate for bilingual education and has published and presented numerous times regarding early intervention, literacy, serving Deaf and hard-of-hearing students of various linguistic, cultural, and academic backgrounds, socioemotional support for the classroom, and more.



Dr. Natalie Delgado (Photo courtesy Louisiana Special School District)

Susan Covington

Susan Covington has a Master's degree in Business Administration, a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communications, National Board Certification in English Language Arts/Early Adolescence, Middle School English Language Arts Grades 4-8, Elementary Grades 1-5, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, National Board Certification in UEB Braille, and Educational Leadership. She has been in education for the past eighteen years as a teacher, master teacher, mentor teacher, and instructional coach. She has presented information on literacy at the district-level, statewide, and nationally. She sat on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Standard Setting Board for Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) and served on both content and bias committees for English Language Arts Testing in Louisiana and nationally. She has been a member of the LSVI Advisory Council, which advises and advocates for the highest quality supports and services for blind and visually impaired students with parents, leadership, VI experts and VI role models.

Covington is currently an instructional support strategist for the Special School District. She believes every student deserves excellent teachers who have high expectations for their students. She believes every student can meet his or her maximum learning potentials when provided with high-quality curriculum, including the Expanded Core Curriculum. Blind and visually impaired students learn in a highly accessible environment that adheres to their individual needs as described in the student's IEP. When students graduate, they must be college and/or career ready and adulthood. Covington believes LSVI has to grow each student's abilities, skills, talents, and values, creating opportunities and removing barriers for students to be successful and enjoy their lives.

Covington is a strong advocate for shared leadership with all stakeholders because this type of leadership creates shared responsibility where everyone works towards the same goals and vision. Covington plans to continue building on her seven years of experience at LSVI to create a strong culture and to build trust with honesty, transparency, and accountability. She believes with a shared leadership model and a strong culture, LSVI can become a national model of excellence serving students who are blind or visually impaired.



Susan Covington (Photo courtesy Louisiana Special School District)