

**Western Gateway Elementary School Hires
Heather Zacarias as Head of School**
Dual-immersion school set to open August 2021



Heather Zacarias

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OKLAHOMA CITY (June 22, 2020) – Western Gateway Elementary School, a planned dual-immersion school just south of the Oklahoma River, has hired Heather Zacarias as its first head of school.

The school is set to open August 2021 to serve Spanish language dominant and non-Spanish language dominant students in south Oklahoma City.

“Western Gateway is in good hands with Heather leading the charge,” said Dr. Raúl Font, member of the school’s board of directors. “She has a strong track record in education and experience serving a diverse population of students. Her previous leadership roles in south Oklahoma City schools give her invaluable insight and understanding.”

Zacarias will start Aug. 1. She will be responsible for leading and shaping the culture of Western Gateway. Zacarias will also serve as the liaison between school staff, the board of directors and community partners to assure the adequate flow of information between all stakeholders.

“I’m excited about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a school that will embrace, value and celebrate multiculturalism and diversity,” said Zacarias. “School is where children learn how the world works, how they will be seen and how they will fit in. I’m

passionate about developing Western Gateway to be a school to teach children the importance of community mindfulness and social responsibility.”

Previously, Zacarias served as director of elementary education and interim superintendent at John Rex Charter School. Prior to John Rex, she was principal at Adams Elementary School in south Oklahoma City.

She is certified as an Oklahoma State Department of Education elementary principal and has nearly 15 years of teaching experience. Zacarias holds a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Central Oklahoma and a bachelor’s degree from Northern Arizona University.

Western Gateway will be located at SW 15th Street and S Douglas Avenue. The school will serve up to 380 students, from pre-k through fourth grade.

About Western Gateway Elementary School

Opening in August 2021, Western Gateway Elementary School strives to cultivate academic excellence and cross-cultural competency by developing curious learners, nurturing creativity, and celebrating diversity. Offering a rigorous curriculum and cultural learning experiences, we empower students to actively succeed in a global community.