



Louisiana Special School District

July 7, 2023

Louisiana School for the Deaf School Announces Executive Director Finalists

Greetings,

We are excited to share some important updates regarding the search for the position of Executive Director of the Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD). The Special School District (SSD) and LSD Executive Director Search Committee members have carefully reviewed the qualifications and experience of the candidates and conducted interviews, resulting in the selection of two outstanding finalists: Christopher Flint Fears and Dr. Natalie Delgado.

The finalists will be visiting the LSD campus on Thursday, July 13. During their visit, they will have the opportunity to interview with the committee, engage in a tour of the school campus, and meet with select staff and students.

We invite the larger community to attend a community forum on the evening of Thursday, July 13, from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Louisiana School for the Deaf. Individuals may also participate virtually through this link: <https://youtube.com/live/hPgeTOsR8rE?feature=share> This forum aims to introduce each finalist to the community and provide an opportunity for attendees to learn more about their qualifications and experience. We value your input and encourage you to share your thoughts on the presentations through a post-event survey, which will be distributed after the forum.

The Special School District and Louisiana School for the Deaf express their sincere gratitude to the LSD Executive Director Search Committee members for their dedication and support throughout this process. We also extend our appreciation to the LSD staff and community members who have contributed to the search through their participation in focus groups and surveys. Furthermore, we acknowledge the guidance and assistance provided by our partners and executive search firm which facilitated the search and screening process, Innivee Strategies, Inc..

ASL version of this announcement: https://youtu.be/SdDIT_75tS4

Sincerely yours,

Dr. David Martin
Superintendent
Louisiana Special School District

About the Finalists

Chrisptoher Flint Fears

Mr. Christopher Flint Fears is an experienced professional with a remarkable background in education. With close to 21 years of expertise gained from his time at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Arkansas School for the Deaf, he has served as both a teacher and an administrator. Christopher grew up in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and proudly graduated from Arkansas School for the Deaf. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Gallaudet University and went on to complete his Master's degree in Special Education: Deaf Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Continuing his educational journey, he achieved an Educational Specialist degree in Education Administration and Supervision, again from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Outside of work, Christopher finds joy in traveling, swimming, and spending quality time with his loved ones. He has a passion for reading, particularly exploring diverse cultures, photography, and immersing himself in the vibrant Deaf culture. Christopher strongly believes in lifelong learning and recognizes the vital role of education in shaping successful lives, regardless of age. His commitment lies in supporting and inspiring children, collaborating closely with teachers and staff to create a caring and enjoyable academic atmosphere. He ensures that the educational, emotional, and nutritional needs of young students are met, fostering their growth and development.

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 support 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.