



Midlands Arts Conservatory
Public Charter School
3806 North Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
(803) 630-1622

News Release

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Contact: Rosie Craig, Chair, Board of Directors, mcraigco@gmail.com or 803-629-2706

Local, experienced educator Brad Tillman named new Head of School at Midlands Arts Conservatory

Brad Tillman, an assistant principal at Brookland-Cayce High School who has extensive experience in schools, will be the next Head of School for Midlands Arts Conservatory charter school in downtown Columbia.

Tillman interviewed with the Board of Directors April 30 after an extensive search for candidates. He will begin work in mid-June.

Midlands Arts Conservatory is a no-tuition state charter school that serves students from six Midlands counties. Students take traditional academic core classes but also receive daily instruction in an arts path, including theatre, visual arts, music and dance.

Tillman succeeds Shannon Hickey, who opened the school in August. She will leave MAC mid-June to accept a job at Northside Christian Academy in Lexington where her son will attend.

“I have watched Midlands Arts Conservatory grow from even before it opened its doors,” Tillman said. “I have been watching their progress and when this position came open, I felt it was a great opportunity to bring my experiences to help the school grow even more.

“I appreciate the Board of Directors’ support and I look forward to meeting and working alongside the staff and families at MAC very soon,” he said.

Rosie Craig, Board chair, said Tillman brings to MAC the necessary administrative experience but also a unique way of relating to people.

“He is very approachable and he understands young people,” she said. “With his background, with our amazing faculty and staff, and with these amazing students and families, it is an extremely exciting time to be part of Midlands Arts Conservatory.

“We feel this is the right match for our school and Mr. Tillman clearly understands school administration and how to motivate students,” she said.

A meet and greet for the new Head of School is scheduled May 21 in conjunction with Open House. Applications for new students will be available.

Tillman is completing this school year as an assistant principal at Brookland-Cayce High School where his duties include student transportation, special education, substitute teachers and overseeing services to homebound students.

He’s also served as an assistant principal at Northside Middle School in West Columbia, where he handled every element of school administration. Tillman taught math at White Knoll High School in Lexington and Ridge View High School in Columbia.

He earned a Master’s of Education Administration from the University of South Carolina; a Master of Arts in teaching secondary mathematics also from USC; and his Bachelor of Arts in Religion from North Greenville College.

Midlands Arts Conservatory is a state charter school, approved by the S.C. Public Charter School District Board in 2016. The school opened last August and quickly is building buzz in the arts community. The school was approved to serve students in middle and high school, and plans are to add one additional grade level each year – for 2019-20 the school will offer grades 6-8.

Student applications still are being accepted and enrollment details are online at www.midlandsartsconservatory.org.

The search for a new Head of School was led by the MAC Transition Team: Rosie Craig, Catharine Aitken, Jennifer Morrison, Kathleen Warthen, Jasmine Woodson and David Turner from the Board of Directors; Marsha Merry, director of operations for the school; Dr. Deborah Hughes, a math teacher at MAC; and John Williams, a K-12 public relations consultant with extensive experience in charter school communications and executive searches.

MAC is located at 3806 North Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29203. For more information visit www.midlandsartsconservatory.org and follow them on Facebook for regular updates and videos.

END