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## **Charlene Hodges Byrd Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 1 Charlene Hodges Byrd: General Correspondence, 2002-2008**

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Another official resigns

Byrd is fifth top school administrator to leave since August

By BRIDGET BRADBURN  
DAILY MAIL STAFF

Charlene Byrd, an associate superintendent for Kanawha County Schools, has retired from her position to head up a new center for human relations at West Virginia State College.

She is the last in a long line of administrators to leave the central office since August.

[[image]]  
BYRD

Byrd, 69, served as the associate superintendent for cultural diversity and communications. Among her duties, Byrd oversaw the Distinguished Scholars program and headed the cultural diversity program, which included a committee and several workshops.

She will now serve as the director for the National Center for Human Relations at West Virginia State College.

"Dr. Byrd has been a friend of West Virginia State College, serving on numerous committees over the years," President Hazo Carter said this morning. "She has been a vigorous supporter of the National Center for Human Relations since its inception in 1996 and has served well as president of the center's board of directors."

The center aims to remove barriers and improve communication, understanding and cooperation among individuals, groups, and institutions.

Carter said the center will provide a place where people can work, teach and learn in an environment that realistically reflects America. The center will target race relations, interfaith relation-

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ships and domestic relations.

The formal dedication of the new permanent center will take place Oct. 9 in Jones Hall.

Byrd has been with Kanawha County Schools since 1965 in various positions.

She received a bachelor's degree in English from Connecticut College, a



master's in English from the University of Chicago and a doctor of laws degree from West Virginia Graduate College.

"This appointment signals an exciting new challenge that comes as I complete a long chapter of my professional career in public education," Byrd said.

She is the fifth person since August to resign from a nine-person management team under the superintendent. Newly elected board member Pete Thaw has targeted several of those - including Byrd's - for elimination.

On Aug. 4, Superintendent Jorea Marple, Deputy Superintendent Jack McClanahan and Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Goodwin stepped down, citing personal attacks and abuse from board members. Last week, school system attorney Greg Bailey resigned to work in education law for Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love.

Now, the only people remaining from Marple's management team are George Beckett, administrative assistant for transportation and personnel; Doug Walter, administrative assistant for professional development and communications; Business Manager Chris Smith and Treasurer Harry Reustle, who replaced David Stewart earlier this summer. Byrd applied for the interim superintendent position in August, and received votes from board members Cheryle Hall and Bill Raglin. Thaw, John Luoni and Betty Jarvis voted for Capital High School Principal John Clendenen.

When Clendenen decided to step down two weeks later, he recommended area superintendent Ron Duerring for the post. Hall, Raglin and Luoni approved his recommendation, but Thaw and Jarvis cast votes for Byrd.

Kristen Young contributed to this story.

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