

## Jay Gense Appointed Interim Director of Special Schools

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo announced that she has named Jay Gense as the Interim Director of Special Schools. Gense will oversee programs at Oregon's special schools and direct day-to-day operations. He will also spearhead the effort to fill the vacant position of Director of the Oregon School for the Deaf with an administrator trained in the education of students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Since 2003, Gense has been the Director of Low Incidence Programs at the Oregon Department of Education. He will begin his new duties on Monday, January 8, 2007. "Jay is a wonderful leader," Castillo said. "He has experience in special education and educational administration, and I am confident that he will do a great job as the Director of Special Schools. I know Jay shares my desire to move quickly to find a permanent Director for the Oregon School for the Deaf -- and to do so in an inclusive manner with broad stakeholder input at each step of the way." Gense has served as an education specialist in the Office of Special Education at ODE and as a coordinator for the Oregon Project for Services to Children who are Deafblind. He also held education positions in North Dakota and Alaska prior to coming to Oregon in 1996. Gense has an Education Specialist degree from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley, and he received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks in special education/elementary education. The Oregon Department of Education is working on a replacement for the Director of Low Incidence Programs and expects to have an announcement in the coming days.

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