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## **Gregory-Portland Independent School District**

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## **Deborah Garza hired as G-PISD's Executive Director of Human Resources**

Gregory-Portland ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos announced this month that Deborah Garza will serve as the district's new Executive Director of Human Resources. She will report to Dr. Ismael Gonzalez III, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Business-Finance and Operations to provide support to more than 770 employees who serve the district.

Dr. Gonzalez expressed his confidence in Garza following the interview process stating, "Her vast experience in Human Resources practices and procedures, as well as her professionalism and past collaboration with school administrators are all reasons why we believe she is the right leader to help us continue and develop processes that build long-term success ensuring a high performing and engaged workforce."

"In any school district, salaries and benefits comprise most of the annual budget – in G-PISD, its approximately ninety-three percent, so without question our greatest investment is our people. We are committed to serving and supporting them, and I believe (Garza) will provide the highest level of support for all our employees."

Cavazos agreed, stating the importance of a high-performing Human Resources team: "Our employees, the team across the district, are directly serving our customers: students, families, and the residents in our community. It's vital that our employees are heard, supported, provided opportunities, and develop the skills necessary to collaborate and innovate together. We are excited to welcome (Garza) to the team, knowing that her expertise will elevate operations for our district while providing clear and consistent communication."

Garza is currently the Executive Director of Human Resources for Sharyland ISD and will contractually join the Gregory-Portland ISD team in July. She was formerly Director for Elementary Staffing at Mission CISD, and has served in other Human Resources, Instructional Leadership, and Teacher roles for La Joya ISD, North East ISD, and McAllen ISD. Additionally, she was a Senior Auditor at Gonzalez/Garza and Associates in San Antonio, Texas, where she performed compliance audits for state and federal programs.

She earned a Master of Education in Administration from the University of Texas - Pan American and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from the same institution. Garza also has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Texas - San Antonio.

"I have heard exceptional things about the great work of Gregory-Portland ISD," said Garza. "I am humbled and honored to be selected to serve, and I look forward to meeting our team and community as we continue to build avenues of success for our people who take great care of our students."

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