

Mission Valley ROP gets new leader

Former Irvington High principal takes over after longtime superintendent retires

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FREMONT -- Former Irvington High School Principal Pete Murchison has taken over as the new head of the Mission Valley Regional Occupational Program, replacing longtime Superintendent Charles Brown, who retired at the end of last month.

Established in 1969, Mission Valley ROP prepares Tri-City area students for business, medical and technical careers. Through a partnership with Fremont, New Haven and Newark school districts, it provides career technical education to nearly 5,000 high school and adult students each year.

Brown announced in March his plans to retire after 40 years in education. The program's governing council solicited community input about the desired qualities for a new superintendent and launched a search. But it didn't have to look far.

"The board is confident that Pete Murchison will continue the rich tradition of superb career technical education offerings for our high school students in Fremont, New Haven and Newark," council President Larry Sweeney said in a statement.

Murchison has worked as a high school educator for nearly four decades, including 14 years as Irvington principal. During his tenure there, the school received three California Distinguished High School awards, a National Blue Ribbon Award and was recognized as a "New American High School."

In the past two years, Irvington was selected as "America's Greenest School" and as one of "America's Best High Schools" in Newsweek magazine.

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recently, Murchison led Irvington's development of three California Partnership Academies: the Science, Health, Athletics and Physical Education academy; the Information Technology Academy; and the New Media Arts Academy.

All three focus on supporting students in career technical education programs in partnership with the program. He started his new job last week.

"Pete will be taking over a complex and highly developed series of evolving programs that continue to set the standard for ROPs in California and the nation," Sweeney said.