



AIDB Names Accomplished Educator, Administrator to Helen Keller Principal Job

June 10, 2011 – AIDB President Dr. Terry Graham announced today that following an extensive search process, Mrs. Christy Atkinson, an accomplished educator and administrator, will assume the role of Principal at the Helen Keller School effective July 1. “We are very pleased to have someone of Mrs. Atkinson’s caliber joining the AIDB leadership team. She has a stellar academic background and has proven to be very entrepreneurial in her educational and administrative endeavors,” said Dr. Graham. “I believe that her academic experience combined with visionary grant writing efforts will prove to be a winning combination of skills to lead the Helen Keller School into the future.”

Christy Atkinson earned her administration certification and Ed.S. in counseling and guidance from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB); a Master of Education in counseling from the University of Montevallo and a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from UAB. She also earned National Board Certification in Early Childhood through Young Adult School Counseling and has served as a mentor for other candidates since 2006.

While attending college she earned numerous scholarships and worked as a computer and media specialist aide. She was a teacher and counselor at Clay-Chalkville schools, then served as assistant principal at Springville Middle School and director/principal of the Eden Career Technical Center. As Director of Grants for Beville State Community College Christy successfully generated a variety of resources and implemented training programs with regional workforce development groups. She has served on accreditation teams and as the leader of best practice committees.

“I am thrilled to have been invited to join the AIDB team,” said Mrs. Atkinson. This is a dream come true for me! AIDB’s reputation and proud tradition of providing education and service programs of superior quality have withstood and grown over 150 years. This is a tremendous legacy and I look forward to developing and implementing innovative programs, establishing partnerships and friendships with all stakeholders, and assisting faculty and staff in meeting the needs of our students. Being able to invest in the lives of students and their families by promoting individual self-advocacy and enabling students to reach their full potential is such a tremendous blessing and honor.”

The Helen Keller School was created within AIDB in 1955 to serve children who were both deaf and blind or have other disabilities. Serving children, ages three to 21, HKS provides individualized quality education, service and care which focuses on the abilities and potential of each student. The program is nationally recognized as a training center for teachers of children who are deaf or blind and multidisabled and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

“Christy reveals a lot of heart for administering special programs for our students and has the educational background and experience to do so,” said Dr. Frieda Meacham, AIDB Vice President for Instructional Programs. “She has demonstrated strengths in programming, staff supervision and grant writing. She is an energetic leader and puts action behind her ideas. We are excited to have her join our leadership team at the Helen Keller School.”