



## SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

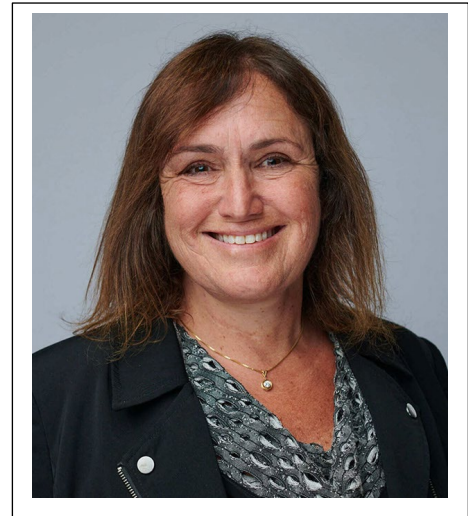
**CONTACT: Diana Bouchaaya**  
**310.450.8338, ext. 70240**  
[dbouchaaya@smmusd.org](mailto:dbouchaaya@smmusd.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Dr. Brenda Clarke Named New Special Education Coordinator**

The Santa Monica-Malibu School District Board of Education approved the appointment of Brenda Clarke, Ed.D., M.B.A., as the newest special education coordinator at its May 16, 2024 regular board meeting.

Dr. Clarke comes to SMMUSD with decades of experience in the fields of education and business with her most recent leadership roles as assistant principal of student outcomes at Santa Barbara High School and in the special education department at Palisades Charter High School. She has past experience teaching in general education and special education classrooms, has served on the Palisades Charter High School Board of Trustees, and has been a high school assistant principal leading special education and student services as well as financial resource allocation and curriculum and instructional practices. These experiences give her the ability to step into the SMMUSD special education coordinator role with a strong foundation to immediately work with families and staff for the best student outcomes.



Dr. Clarke earned a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from University of Illinois, and master's degrees in business administration from University of Chicago, and in special education and math teaching at Northeastern Illinois University, autism and English language learner certifications from UCLA, and a doctorate of educational leadership and administration from USC.

Dr. Clarke shares, "I am excited and honored to support the SMMUSD in this new role as special education coordinator, which considers all students and families in our world class communities of Santa Monica and Malibu with the greatest challenges to overcome to reach their own unique potentials. I know how to implement policies and procedures surrounding special education support and compliance, restorative justice initiatives, curriculum development and least restrictive environment programs, adhering to challenging procedures and laws, and training and evaluating staff. Through receiving my doctorate in educational leadership and administration from the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education, while simultaneously taking on expansive educational leadership roles for the last decade, I am fully prepared to utilize my wisdom and compassion through this significant role at one of the nation's leading school districts, SMMUSD."

"I would like to welcome Dr. Clarke to the SMMUSD family," said Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton. "Her demonstrated leadership and exceptional experience make her a great addition to our special education team."

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