

# Rochester School District hires CTE leader

**Justin Murphy**

Staff writer

The Rochester School District has hired a former New York State Education Department contractor to help revamp its career and technical education program, marking the third high-profile administrator to be hired in the city since school let out for the summer.

Keith Babuszcak, a former consultant with the CTE Technical Assistance Center of New York, worked with BOCES in the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Hudson Valley and the Yonkers school district, helping schools improve their CTE programs. He previously served as assistant superintendent for CTE in Pittsfield, Mass., and worked for the Massachusetts Department of Education.

His title in Rochester will be chief of school innovation for career pathways and integrated learning. He will earn \$135,000 annually and will supervise Beverly Gushue, who remains in her current position as CTE director. Gushue will concentrate on the specifics of the district's CTE offerings, while Babuszcak will work to integrate career and academic offerings, including for younger students.

He fills a position that had been left empty since Mary Doyle switched from chief of school innovation to become then-interim superintendent Bolgen Vargas' chief of staff in 2011, according to a district spokesman.

"I am excited to work with all our partners to define college and career readiness for our graduates and engage our students in rigorous learning opportunities that link directly to success in further education and meaningful careers," Babuszcak said in a statement to district staff.

Babuszcak takes over a program in need of improvement. A district-commissioned audit released in February described poorly designed, non-accredited CTE classes, taught by ill-prepared teachers in substandard facilities with little coordination with employers or other partners who might be of use.

As a result, the district is shipping many CTE students out to BOCES this year while it works to improve its internal offerings.

Babuszcak joins two other top-level additions by the district in recent weeks. Christiana Otuwa was hired away from her post as assistant superintendent for Pittsburgh Public Schools to become Rochester's next deputy superintendent for teaching and learning. Adele Bovard left the top job in the Webster Central School District to become Rochester's deputy superintendent for administration.

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