

## **CR Welcomes Dr. Lambert as New Director of Special Services**

On August 1, Council Rock School District welcomed the new Director of Special Services, Charles J. Lambert, Ph.D. Dr. Lambert comes to Council Rock with many years of experience in a both Special Education and Student Services. Most recently, he served as the Supervisor of Special Education and the Supervisor of Student Services for Upper Moreland School District. Dr. Lambert enjoyed his 14 years at Upper Moreland, but was looking for the opportunity to work and collaborate with a larger team. Council Rock School District is four times the size of Upper Moreland School District and allows him to play a role and be involved in many more areas.

Dr. Lambert has a master's degree in Special Education and a doctorate in School Psychology. He has both Supervisor of Special Education and Supervisor of Student Services Certifications. A Supervisor of Special Education oversees Special Education activities and personnel, and a Supervisor of Student Services oversees guidance counselors, psychologists, nurses and social workers, among others. At Council Rock, with a staff of five Special Education Supervisors and one Supervisor of Student Services, Dr. Lambert is qualified to oversee both areas.

Dr. Lambert has already focused on priorities for his first year. New IDEA changes were passed in June. The modifications are mainly administrative, but Dr. Lambert wants to make sure procedures are properly implemented and ensure that the staff is comfortable with the new processes. Secondly, Dr. Lambert would like to move to a rolling IEP process. Currently, all IEPs are completed in May. With the process set up in this manner, Dr. Lambert feels there is not enough time to give the attention needed to each student. A change to a rolling process will help correct this problem, though there may be a need for IEP amendments in May, especially for secondary education students and their course selection.

Next, Dr. Lambert referenced the Gaskin case, a recently settled case regarding education in the least restrictive environment. Under the provisions of the settlement, the state will be taking a more active roll in monitoring compliance of school districts. Dr. Lambert does not feel Council Rock has any concerns, but this will necessitate more data collection and reporting.

Finally, Dr. Lambert wants to become more familiar with the gifted program and keep this as a priority.

Guidance counselors in the elementary schools is a newly implemented project in Council Rock. Dr. Lambert acknowledges there are always budget constraints, but he believes in the value of the guidance counselor. At the high school level, we discussed the idea of a College Placement specialist, and he found the concept very interesting.

We welcome Dr. Lambert to Council Rock. He has only just started his career at Council Rock, but he is clearly focused and off to a busy start. We look forward to getting to know Dr. Lambert better in the coming year and wish him good luck!