

Dear Longhorn Community,

On a hot July day in 2000, Mr. Steele handed me the keys to Jones High School and said, "We'll see how it goes for a year." On June 30, I will spend the last day of my 23rd and final year as a leader in this incredible district.

I have been given an opportunity to lead another district that means a great deal to me as well. On July 1, I will begin my duties as superintendent of Oakdale Public Schools.

I served 14 years as the principal of Jones High School and the last nine as the district superintendent. There is not enough space here, nor do I think I have the poetic competence, to accurately explain how happy I have been serving this community. There have been bumps, and too many of you still see me as the "my way or the highway" high school principal, but that's not what I think about. I think about the laughter that filled those hallways. The excitement of Friday nights and of futures just beginning. I've been around long enough to hire former students, say good morning to your kids as they walk through the front door, and I've even given a diploma to a father and son. I've worked for a former student while they served on the board, and I regularly do business with engineers, attorneys, doctors, IT specialists, and many others that were once students here.

We've managed to work together to build a couple of cool things and win some state championships, but it will always be you, my friends in Jones, that I will miss the most.

I'll still be around to support my Longhorns, but you won't hear a word from me if you're running in the commons or climbing over the railing at a football game. That will be someone else's problem. On July 1, I'm just another Longhorn fan.

Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime,

Dr. J

It's a Great Life to be a LONGHORN!!