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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### U. City Schools Announces New SSD Director

**University City, MO** – The School District of University City is delighted to announce Artondria Bentley, Ed.D., will join the District this summer as its new SSD director.

Bentley, a University City High School graduate, holds a Doctorate of Education Leadership degree and has played vital roles in the Special School District of St. Louis County for nearly 19 years. She is currently the special education administrator (area coordinator) for the Parkway School District and got her start at SSD as a special education teacher in 2002.

In her role at U. City Schools, Bentley will provide leadership and collaboration between district schools to enhance and support achievement for our students with unique needs. She will collaborate with the SSD main office, the district's SSD teachers, and U. City Schools staff, students and parents to ensure seamless services, including the creation and maintenance of student IEPs. She has training in trauma-informed practices.

“I’m elated to come back to the school district that gave me a solid foundation. It is my life’s work to lead and serve the students, families, and community. I look forward to partnering with school staff and families to ensure equitable access to education, particularly when students have various learning challenges. I couldn’t be more excited to serve the families in The School District of University City,” Bentley said.

While at Parkway, Bentley played an integral role in the district’s re-opening of classrooms for students during COVID-19. She also partnered with the district to monitor embedded-practices and systems to prevent the over-identification of minority students.

Bentley replaces DeAndria Player. We thank Player for her service to our students. Bentley will begin her new post with the District on July 1, 2021.



**#UCLionPride**

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*On February 21, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In 2020, University City High School held its 103<sup>rd</sup> formal Commencement ceremony.*