

Dear Fircrest Staff:

I am announcing my retirement after working at Fircrest for more than 24 years. My last day of work will be March 31st 2015 when I will complete 21 years as Fircrest Superintendent.

It has been an honor and privilege to lead Fircrest and work with people who are dedicated and passionate about serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I started as Superintendent in 1994 with the directive to implement a decision to reduce 110 staff. In addition, a Department of Justice investigation was going on full force. Suffice it to say, challenges and successes have certainly continued since then, including the 2003-4 downsizing and plan for closure of Fircrest, and the economic downturn of 2008-9 that necessitated significant cost-saving changes. We have weathered all these challenges.

There have been many successes as well; for instance our state of the art program to support individuals in behavioral/medical crisis, our leadership in sustainability, the state of the art adaptive technology program and our newly developed art program!

When I took over in 1994, I was well aware of our strengths, namely an innovative and highly competent staff. My goal was to keep Fircrest strong enough to survive future challenges. An administrator's success is often measured by whether they leave the organization better than when they took over. I can say with confidence that Fircrest's future is bright. We have competent, enthusiastic and compassionate staff and strong and involved regional and central offices. We have a dedicated group of family members and guardians who are always looking to make Fircrest a better place. I know the next Superintendent will have all the tools, resources and support needed to ensure Fircrest continues to improve and expand the quality of services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

It has been a fulfilling experience and I am very proud of what we have accomplished. It is time for me to take time for myself and my family. I am looking forward to the new chapter in my life and an opportunity to do other things in my personal and professional life.

It is time for new leadership to move the vision forward. Announcement of my successor will be made soon and I am committed to do my best to achieve a smooth transition.

Sincerely,



Asha Singh