



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SMMUSD Announces New Director of Purchasing

The SMMUSD Board of Education approved the appointment of Anna Chhabria as the new director of purchasing at its December 14, 2017 regular meeting. Chhabria's appointment began on Jan. 03, 2018.

Chhabria brings more than 20 plus years of purchasing, process change, budgets, process planning and information technology experience to this position, most recently from University of Southern California, where she worked for 15 years.

While at USC, Chhabria negotiated agreements and contracts, managed vendors, liaised with internal and external customers, stakeholders, affiliates, federal, state and city agencies, process planning, budgetary controls and conducted trainings. She also designed and implemented new automated systems for efficiency and compliance and conducted data analysis.

At City of Torrance, she managed job training, community and education grants for the Cities of Carson, Lomita, Torrance and Harbor City. As fiscal lead she managed budgets, federal, state, City of LA and all city and community agency reporting, purchasing, operations and process efficiencies. She brings a vast experience in technology and construction projects management and procurement in public and private sectors in academia and city governance.

"I am honored and excited to join the SMMUSD team and look forward to support the Board and District to enhance the efficiencies, accountability and transparency in our business processes," Chhabria said. "I look forward to meeting with the school staff, department managers, vendors and PTA representatives and to collaborate with all stakeholders to achieve our mission of Excellence in Education to help our students grow into successful citizens of the diverse local and global economy."

She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry with honors and a Master's in Business Administration from Gujarat University, India with an emphasis in business management and computer programming and systems. Chhabria also holds certificates in project management, HIPAA, OSHA, CBEST, web-based multimedia and Microsoft and is skilled in digital-based systems.



She has strived to continuously keep her skills current with certifications in business strategy from Virginia University, internet policy and law from Cornell University, multimedia from USC, and negotiations and procurement from various professional associations. She is also a presenter at national, local academic and professional forums like Educause, ACUTA, ICN, USC and various community organizations.

“Ms. Chhabria will be a valuable addition to our district team,” Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said. “We are looking forward to her expertise to oversee and manage our busy purchasing department.”

Chhabria’s appointment began on Jan. 3, 2018. She replaces Virginia Hyatt who retired.

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