



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MIRIAM ACADEMY NAMES FOUNDING HEAD OF SCHOOL**

*Webster Groves, MO* – [Miriam: The Learning Disability Experts](#) announces Dr. Susan Jackson as the Founding Head of School for [Miriam Academy](#), a new high school for students with learning disabilities. Miriam Academy will enroll an inaugural 9th grade class in the fall of 2016.

Dr. Jackson brings more than 25 years of academic experience in both private and public school settings to her role as Head of School at Miriam Academy. Her background includes extensive experience working with students with learning disabilities and heading high schools in the area. Most recently, she served as Head Principal of Affton High School in South St. Louis County for the past seven years.

“After a national search, we are very pleased to welcome Dr. Jackson to this important leadership role as our Founding Head of School for Miriam Academy,” said Miriam’s Executive Director Andrew Thorp. “Dr. Jackson’s vast experience and special education expertise are the perfect fit to help Miriam create a learning environment where students will excel,” he said.

Dr. Jackson received two Bachelor of Science Degrees in Elementary and Special Education from Southeast Missouri State University and her Master’s Degree in Education from Washington University. Additionally, Dr. Jackson holds the advanced degrees of Educational Specialist in School Leadership and Policy Studies from Saint Louis University and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She also holds certifications for Principal (9-12), Superintendent and Special Education Administrator.

Her extensive background in learning disabilities includes developing the learning consultant and summer enrichment programs at John F. Kennedy Catholic High School from 1997-2002. Dr. Jackson also served as Assistant Principal at Parkway North High where she was the liaison to the Special School District and coordinated learning accommodations for students with disabilities. In 2007, she became Principal at Windsor High School in Jefferson County before her current position as Head Principal at Affton High School.

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“It is an honor to join Miriam Academy as the Founding Head of School,” Dr. Jackson said. “The vision of Miriam Academy will include goals to maximize each student’s potential and promote the post-secondary success for our graduates. I look forward to developing the framework for Miriam Academy’s curriculum, clubs and activities that are student-centered and designed to help each student succeed,” she said.

Miriam Academy will enroll 10 students in the first academic year and serve high school students with average to above average intelligence with learning challenges in the areas of language, reading, math, sensory and social skill development. Miriam Academy plans to add one grade each year and ultimately serve students in grades 9-12. Enrollment is open to both current Miriam families as well as other students in the area.

Through two comprehensive programs, Miriam School and Miriam Learning Center, Miriam currently serves more than 1,000 students with learning disabilities. Started as an elementary school 60 years ago and with the addition of a middle school in 2002, today Miriam School serves 96 students in grades K-8 with a variety of learning challenges. Miriam Learning Center serves nearly 900 students in the community through after school programs and outreach partnerships with charter and private schools. Throughout its history, Miriam has sought to fulfill unmet needs in the community. Miriam Academy will continue this legacy by extending educational opportunities for high school students with learning disabilities.

For more information, visit [www.miriamacademy.org](http://www.miriamacademy.org).

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### **About Miriam:**

Founded in 1910, [Miriam: The Learning Disability Experts](#) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Webster Groves, Mo, that is committed to improving the quality of life for children with learning disabilities and their families through innovative programs including Miriam School, Miriam Learning Center and the new Miriam Academy. Miriam serves nearly 1,000 children, ages 3-18, in the St. Louis region who struggle with learning disabilities. The Miriam Scholarship Campaign annually provides \$1 million in financial assistance to Miriam students and families.

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