

News Release

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April 27, 2016

Dakota County names Matt Smith as County Manager *Former deputy named to replace Brandt Richardson*

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners announced Matt Smith as the County's new manager. In his new role, Smith will oversee a team of nearly 2,000 employees in the county's 16 different departments.

"Matt has played key leadership roles in many major County initiatives and is widely and highly respected for his work for Dakota County, at the State of Minnesota and at the City of Saint Paul," said Nancy Schouweiler, Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners. "He is an excellent choice, who knows Dakota County well and how it integrates with other areas of government. He will be a great leader and partner with the Commissioners in building upon the strong foundation we have in Dakota County. I and my fellow commissioners greatly look forward to working with him on behalf of our County's residents."

Smith joined Dakota County in 2008 as Dakota County Director of Financial Services and was most recently Dakota County Deputy County Manager. He previously was the Finance Director for the City of Saint Paul from 2002–2008. Smith spent more than 14 years in various roles in the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

These included serving as Commissioner of Revenue from 1998–2002 under Governor Jesse Ventura, serving as Deputy Commissioner of Revenue from 1996–1998 under Governor Arne Carlson, and serving as Acting Commissioner of Revenue under Governor Carlson from 1994–1996.

"Matt is an outstanding choice to provide leadership for our county," said Brandt Richardson, County Manager, Dakota County. "Matt has been a critical part of Dakota County's success and his experience in state, local and county government will continue to be a tremendous asset in the County's work. I hold Matt in the highest esteem both personally and professionally and have every confidence that he will lead Dakota County to even higher levels of performance. Matt will lead the best employees in County government. As a Dakota County resident, I look forward to great progress ahead."

“I am honored and grateful to have this new opportunity at Dakota County,” said Matt Smith, Deputy County Manager, Dakota County. “I look forward to working closely with the Dakota County Board of Commissioners and our fine staff. I have long admired the passion and dedication of this community and am very proud and fortunate to work with such great people. Dakota County’s future is especially bright because of the foundation that has been laid over the years. This County has done a great job of balancing low, stable taxes with high-quality services, and I’ll be privileged to support that in the future.”

Smith has earned a Master of Arts in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota.

Dakota County’s responsibilities include everything from protecting children to protecting the environment. County staff pave and plow roads, provide spectacular parks, and manage premier libraries. The County also prosecutes criminals, runs a jail and monitors thousands of offenders on probation or parole. County staff keep property and vital records, issue a variety of licenses and permits, and run elections. The County also works to protect the health of communities, take care of the vulnerable and to help fight poverty.

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