

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Angie Jones

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf
and the Blind

Phone: 208-934-8788

Email: HR@iesdb.org

IESDB Board Announces Two Finalists for Administrator

Gooding, Idaho — The Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) Board today announced two finalists for the position of Administrator: **Rayburn Boland** and **Jason Cox**.

The next steps in the selection process are as follows:

- **First week of September:** both finalists will visit the IESDB campus, meet with the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT), and participate in a meet-and-greet with the IESDB community.
- **Board interviews:** following the campus visit, each candidate will travel to Boise for a formal interview with the IESDB Board.
- **Appointment timeline:** the Board anticipates naming the next administrator after considering input from the ALT and completing final interviews.

Headshots and biographies of each finalist are attached to this announcement.

About IESDB:

The Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind provides statewide educational services, support, and resources for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Low Vision, working in partnership with families, schools, and communities to ensure access, inclusion, and student success.

ASL YouTube Video:

https://youtu.be/YMu_he2V0vk?si=f7NOe6HdxPR97EB_

IESDB Administrator Finalists



Rayburn Boland

Rayburn Boland is a dedicated and accomplished leader in the field of deaf education, with a professional career that spans over 30 years. He commenced his career as a classroom teacher, dedicating fifteen years to this role, including seven years of teaching English to middle school students at the Alabama School for the Deaf. Following his transition into school administration, he established a reputation as a principal and visionary leader, having served as a principal at deaf schools in Indiana, Louisiana, New York, and Arkansas. His extensive experience and unwavering commitment to high educational standards have significantly contributed to the academic success of deaf students, positioning him as a strong advocate for their educational journey. In addition to his academic responsibilities, he has facilitated sports programs and cultural initiatives, notably leading the Arkansas Deaf Heritage Center.

Mr. Boland's commitment to the advancement of deaf education is further demonstrated by his academic achievements. He has obtained advanced degrees in educational leadership from Gallaudet University, in addition to earning an Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree at Capella University, with an expected graduation date in Winter 2026.

In his capacity as the Executive Director of the National American Sign Language Education for Heritage Language Learners, Mr. Boland's leadership is marked by his expertise, enthusiasm, and ability to foster a positive and inclusive school environment. His dedication to promoting American Sign Language education and its significance in preserving heritage languages is highly regarded by his colleagues and students, instilling confidence in his leadership.

Mr. Boland's personal life is as fulfilling as his professional one. He resides in Maumelle with his wife, Elly, and their two sons, finding balance and joy in his family life.

IESDB Administrator Finalists



Jason Cox

Jason Cox is a dynamic leader and proud alumni of Gallaudet University with over 20 years of experience in Deaf Education. He has worked in a wide variety of educational settings/roles from Teacher Aide, Student-Life Dorm Counselor, School Counselor, Coach, Athletic Director and Residential Director to

Principal at both the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) and Alabama Institute for the Deaf & Blind (AIDB). Each of these opportunities taught him first-hand the value and impact that every person and every department has on an agency and the students they serve both on-campus and statewide. The knowledge gained from these experiences has given him unique insight into the innerworkings of the academic, residential and outreach programs that make an institute for the Deaf & Blind successful.

Growing up Deaf, in a low-socioeconomic home, with hearing family members, utilizing technology and services, attending both mainstream and school for Deaf programs profoundly shaped him as a child and continues to influence him as a professional today working with children and families from similarly dynamic homes with their own unique intersectionality strengths and struggles. He believes there is no “one-size fits all” solution and that every child/family is unique and we must meet them where they are at with empathy, resource support and information that empowers them to make informed decisions.

Jason believes all children need and deserve full language access, accessible content, real peers and successful role-models who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, Blind and Low-Vision. These individuals inherently understand the value and power of access, language, identity and community. Learning through the lens of others lived experiences is a powerful tool for shaping not only the perspectives of the students/families we serve, but also the broader perspectives of

professionals working in intersecting fields that impact early intervention, social care, healthcare and legislation.

Jason's authenticity, transparency, collaborative spirit and sense of humor have helped him successfully navigate various state systems, participate in many transformative projects and serve on a variety of transdisciplinary teams across different agencies nationwide. Through partnership and meaningful engagement, he believes we can improve long-term learning outcomes, social-emotional competence and educational, health and social equity for all students.