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**Saint Albert Hires Childhood Center Director**

Jim Rouse, president of Saint Albert Catholic Schools, announced today that the school has hired Lara McClelland as the director of its Early Childhood Development Center. McClelland will begin her new role in June and the center will open in August.

Since July 2006, McClelland has served as the director of the Nishna Valley Child Care Center and 3-year-old preschool program in Hastings, Iowa. Prior to that, she was the co-director and preschool teacher at Cardinal's Nest Preschool and Early Childhood Education Center in Treynor, Iowa. She also has served as a respite care provider for REM Health of Iowa and an associate preschool teacher at Iowa Western Community College Children's Center.

McClelland earned an associate of applied science degree in Early Childhood Education from Iowa Western Community College in 1997 and is currently working on coursework toward a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development. She is certified in the Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC) with the Child Care Resource & Referral office.

"We are so fortunate to have a person of Lara's high caliber directing our early childhood program," Rouse said. "Her expertise and experience will help us serve a great need in our community, and will allow us to expand our faith-based programs to a whole new level of children."

Enrollment for Saint Albert's Early Childhood Development Center will begin in April. The center will provide services for children from six weeks to school age, making Saint Albert the only school in the region to offer educational programs from cradle to college – all in one facility.

(For more information about Saint Albert's Early Childhood Development Center, call 329-9000.)