

SCHOOLS

SUPPORT GROUP HAS FIRST DIRECTOR

By JEFF WRIGHT
The Register-Guard

Curry will head the Springfield Education Foundation

Ronnel Curry has been named the first-ever executive director of Springfield Education Foundation.

Curry will help guide the nonprofit organization's support of Springfield's public schools. Curry, a 26-year Springfield resident with two children who have gone through Springfield schools, brings more than 25 years of experience in marketing, communications and development.

Most recently, Curry was development director for Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah, where she helped expand that organization's individual donor base and community awareness.

Curry, who began her new job last week, has been hired on a three-quarter-time schedule. She is the foundation's first-ever paid employee, with an annual salary of \$42,000.

"We are so pleased to find such an experienced and savvy

director," school district Superintendent Nancy Golden, who is also a foundation board member, said in a written statement. "I'm excited about the increased potential for building partnerships that directly benefit our schools."

The foundation's support for Springfield schools is even more critical in the current tough economic times, Golden said.

The group's structure was reorganized last year with the

goal of being able to provide more private financial support to schools. Its board of directors was expanded to include 27 community members who bring a range of skills and expertise to the table.

The addition of an executive director is the latest step in the foundation's recent reorganization plan to increase community involvement, board chairman Bill Spiry said.

"Our talented group of board members is full of



Ronnel Curry

energy, enthusiasm and ideas," Spiry said in a statement. "With an executive director to help us coordinate and focus our efforts, we fully expect to expand our development targets."

The foundation, founded in 1994, has given thousands of dollars in grant funds to schools across the district. It

Turn to **FOUNDATION**, Page 2

Foundation: Group supports literacy programs

Continued from Page 1

also actively supports the district's efforts to improve student literacy and incorporate arts into classroom learning by providing funding for programs such as Gift of Literacy, Battle of the Books and the Arts Matter Initiative.

The executive direc-

tor position is funded by the foundation, which operates independently from the district.

Reach Curry at 541-726-3243 or ronnel@springfieldeducationfoundation.org.

More information on the foundation is available at www.springfieldeducationfoundation.org.