



**Robert Bentley**  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of  
**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



**Cary F. Boswell**  
COMMISSIONER

February 29, 2012

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Kathleen McGehee**  
**(334) 293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607**

## *Etowah County principal to join ADRS board*

MONTGOMERY - An Etowah County elementary school principal will be sworn in March 9 as the newest member of the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services.

Andrea Collett, principal of West End Elementary in Altoona, will take her seat on the board for the 4th Congressional District. Collett, who has hearing loss, will represent persons with disabilities on the seven-member board. She was appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley and confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

Cary Boswell, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), said he was pleased with the governor's decision.

"Throughout her distinguished career, Mrs. Collett has not only seen firsthand the challenges faced by students with disabilities and special health care needs, but has found ways to enable those students to succeed in the academic environment," Boswell said. "I applaud Gov. Bentley for appointing an individual to the ADRS board who is so passionate and determined. I am certain her addition will greatly and positively impact the lives of countless children and adults with disabilities served by ADRS." In addition to her experiences with disability in her personal life and in the classroom, Collett also has another connection to disability through her grandson and granddaughter, who also are hearing impaired.

"Rehabilitation Services has already helped me in numerous ways, both professionally and personally," Collett said. "This is a great organization capable of doing tremendous things for people in need, and I am excited to play a role in promoting interest in disability and rehabilitation issues, and serving people who benefit from ADRS's many programs."

Collett will join board members Stephen Kayes, District 1; Jimmie Varnado, District 2; Patricia Floyd, District 3; Eddie Williams, District 5; Board Chairman Roger McCullough, District 6; and Mitch Strickland, District 7.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

# # #

**PROVIDING SERVICES TO ALABAMIANS WITH DISABILITIES**