



New Monarch School CEO sets priorities

By Karen Kucher
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SAN DIEGO — In her new job as [chief executive officer](#) at Monarch School, Ronne Froman said her top priorities will be raising about \$6.5 million still needed for a new campus for the school for homeless children as well as finding a way to replicate its success in other locations.

Froman, a retired Navy rear admiral, takes the helm of the [K-12 school](#) as it prepares to break ground on a new campus south of [Petco Park](#).

The new \$14 million school will be five times the size of the existing school downtown and feature a health center, computer lab and gym. The school will be housed in a building on Newton Avenue near [16th Street](#) that was formerly used as a temporary homeless shelter. The school is expected to open in spring 2012.

Froman previously worked as chief of business and operations for San Diego city schools, chief executive at the local Red Cross chapter, and chief operating officer for the city of San Diego. Froman said she's had a relationship with the Monarch School for about 10 years, serving on its board of directors at one point and working as its interim vice president in 2010.

She is replacing Sarita Fuentes, who became the school's CEO and co-principal in 2004. Fuentes resigned in June and will take a position with the county Office of Education, Monarch Principal Joel Garcia said.

Froman said Fuentes did an "incredible job" improving academics at Monarch and said she hopes to take it to the next level.

"We've gotten a lot of recognition nationally. I believe we have a model here that can be used for education nationally if we are able to do this with the most at-risk kids," she said.

Froman, who oversees a staff of 40, is being paid \$100,000 annually in her new post. Monarch School is a partnership between the county Office of Education and Monarch School Project, a nonprofit group.