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Photo courtesy of *Springfield News-Leader*

## David Stoeffler named executive director of La Crosse Public Education Foundation

LA CROSSE – A Viterbo University graduate and former editor of the *La Crosse Tribune* has been named executive director of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

David Stoeffler, 55, will begin his new position June 9, succeeding Tim Riley, who was instrumental in introducing the Compassion Project to the La Crosse area.

Greg Bonney, president of the foundation board, said Stoeffler was the unanimous choice of the Search Committee to become its new Executive Director. “We are excited to welcome David back to the La Crosse area. We are confident he will help the Foundation continue to grow and continue its mission to encourage innovative learning in our classrooms.”

Stoeffler recently announced he is stepping down after four years as executive editor of the *Springfield News-Leader*, a daily paper in southwest Missouri. The Wisconsin native and 1981 graduate of Viterbo has worked in the news industry for nearly 35 years, starting as a reporter at the *Tribune* and returning as editor in 1995-97. Among many career highlights, Stoeffler was the first vice president for news of Lee Enterprises, owner of the *Tribune*.

In Springfield, Stoeffler played an instrumental role in focusing community attention on education, safety, health and poverty-related issues facing children. He helped create a community coalition, the Every Child Promise, which has developed an ambitious long-range strategic plan to improve the lives of children. More than \$1 million has been raised to support pilot programs over the next three years.

“The executive director role is a great opportunity to merge my skills and deep knowledge of La Crosse with my passion for public education and improving the lives of children,” Stoeffler said. “I’m excited to get reacquainted with the community and to work with the board and the district’s committed educators to grow the foundation and improve support to children.”

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation’s mission is to enhance learning opportunities for students in the School District of La Crosse and to promote community understanding and support for public education. This school year, the foundation provided more than \$43,000 in grants to district teachers and schools, plus provided more than \$15,000 to help students overcome roadblocks to achievement in areas such as nutrition, transportation, academic and co-curricular support.

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