

NEWS

# GOVERNOR PICKS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF, DEPUTY

By Bob Mahlburg and Tallahassee Bureau  
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TALLAHASSEE -- Two state officials with Central Florida ties were named to top positions Monday by Gov. Jeb Bush.

Denver Stutler Jr., 39, who received his undergraduate and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida and served as chief of staff for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, was named the governor's new chief of staff.

Stutler grew up in St. Petersburg and worked in Orlando for the engineering firm Camp Dresser & McKee before joining the Department of Environmental Protection in 1999.

"I loved UCF and my professional training," he said. "Management is really what I do in my current role. I'm really excited to serve in this new capacity."

Stutler, who played football at UCF, recently was selected for the professional achievement award from the engineering college at UCF.

Stutler replaces Kathleen Shanahan, who resigned effective Oct. 3 to pursue other professional opportunities. Stutler had been the governor's deputy chief of staff.

Pat Levesque, 32, who was named the governor's new deputy chief of staff, once handled education policy for former House Speaker Daniel Webster, R-Winter Garden, now a state senator.

Until her new appointment, she served as education policy director in the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget. Levesque received her master's degree in business administration from Rollins College and her undergraduate degree from Bob Jones University in South Carolina.

Greg Turbeville, 32, also announced his resignation as director of policy effective Sept. 5; he will pursue other professional opportunities, officials said.

J.M. "Mac" Stipanovich, former chief of staff for Gov. Bob Martinez and a political strategist for Bush, said the switches are a normal transition that occurs when a governor starts a second term.

"I don't think it means any change in direction," Stipanovich said. "It's hard to stay in one of those jobs for more than a couple years. It's a lot of pressure and the governor is very demanding."

Bush praised his departing staff.

"In my five years as governor, I have been privileged to work with bright, creative, dedicated public servants," Bush said. "As they move on to their new challenges, they present other talented individuals the opportunity to positively affect the lives of all Floridians."

