From: Davis, Joel
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Western Blvd - All Users
Subject: Important announcement

Everyone:

I wanted to take a moment to share some important news with all of you.

The year “2024” will mark a significant milestone for Rick Gall, our news director here at WRAL. Rick has been an integral part of our station since 1995 and assumed the role of news director in 2005. However, after this remarkable stretch of dedicated service, both Rick and his wife Pam have made the decision to embark on a well-deserved retirement. Rick was kind enough to tell me of this decision some time ago, and we’re announcing it now in order to allow ample time to search for his successor.

Many of you have worked with Rick for much of your careers. In some cases, you became a part of the WRAL News team ***because*** of Rick. We know he will be missed by all.

Rick plans to depart at the end of May in 2024. We’ll save most of the (many) accolades for that time, but there is no doubt we have one of the best news directors in the country. I often say Rick is like a CEO of news. Our news department has more employees than many entire TV stations in our market size. Despite how that can stretch one’s oversight, Rick has the ability to stay on top of it all. He can simultaneously be kind while also pushing us to a higher level of performance. The many awards won in the past couple of years include the Emmy and Murrow awards for overall excellence. In the recent May ratings we had 65% of adult 25-54 news viewers in the market, an extraordinarily high number. He has focused on the core pillars of breaking news and weather, while also growing our enterprise unit to more than 20 members. His steady hand and calm leadership are greatly valued.
Personally speaking, he has been a great partner to work with during my 5 years here. I have no doubt he will continue to push us all until the day he retires!

You all are part of one of the strongest news operations in the country, and while no one can replace Rick, because of all your hard work and successes we expect a lot of interest in the news director role. Please feel free to see me or Rick with any questions you may have and stay tuned for events next May to celebrate his many years with Capitol. It might take us this full year to produce an appropriate send-off! Rick will also talk about this decision at our station meetings scheduled for tomorrow.

JOEL DAVIS

VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER
WRAL (NBC) AND WRAZ FOX 50