

Press Release

From: The Office of the Commissioner of Administration

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For Immediate Release

**Commissioner of Administration Announces Governor Blanco's Appointment of State's
Chief Information Officer**

Commissioner Jerry Luke LeBlanc today announced the appointment by the Governor of Rizwan Ahmed to fill the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO). LeBlanc said that Ahmed, currently the CIO for the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) and Information Technology Director for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will assume the position on March 15.

The Chief Information Office within the Division of Administration provides strategic direction and coordination of Louisiana's extensive information technology infrastructure investment. The CIO, under the direction of the Commissioner of Administration, is also responsible for the continued development and maintenance of an information technology master plan.

Ahmed, an electrical engineer with degrees in both physics and statistics, has extensive technical experience put to use by both DNR and OGB since he began work for the state in 1996. One of his achievements, the development and implementation of a web centric application for DNR called SONRIS received the Technology Information Award by the Smithsonian Institute in 2000. According to LeBlanc, "The Governor and I believe that Rizwan is a rare find in the world of information technology because his qualifications are uniquely impressive and his accomplishments while in state service have been exemplary."

Among his many accomplishments Ahmed has served as the President of the Council of Information Services Directors, an organization dedicated to the acquisition, implementation and effectiveness of technology in Louisiana.

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