



# Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

*igniting and nurturing creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition*

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

**José M. Torres, Ph.D.**

**March 18, 2015**

### LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Today's meeting will highlight three important Board Policy matters and IMSA's six to seven year overall impact goal, that by 2022 "IMSA is a recognized global leader and catalyst in equity and excellence in STEM & social entrepreneurship teaching and learning." During the meeting I will lead Board discussion of the six priority outcomes on which I intend to focus our institutional energy and resources in order to achieve our overall impact goal: (1) Increase STEM persistence; (2) Strengthen identity: learning laboratory; (3) Develop STEM educator proficiencies; (4) Develop IMSA's capacity to lead in social entrepreneurship; (5) Demonstrate fiscal stewardship & increase collaboration; (6) Broaden engagement, presence and awareness of IMSA.

I look forward to your comments and feedback regarding these priority outcomes, and whether or not you wish to conduct a formal vote to adopt these as our institutional goals. If so, this would be an action item in May.

Three areas in which IMSA leads are: STEM entrepreneurship education, STEM professional development and STEM conferencing and professional learning. Recent highlights include:

- **IMSA TALENT Power Pitch 2015**

Sponsored by Chase Bank, the [IMSA TALENT Power Pitch](#) Preliminaries were held March 9. Over 45 students from IMSA and 15 from other schools pitched innovative STEM product and business ideas, vying for a place in the Power Pitch Finals that will be held at 1871 on April 20, 2015.

- **Professional Development Day**

More than 250 teachers from 12 Illinois counties participated in 33 sessions at the sold-out sixth annual hands-on STEM and History Professional Learning Day on February 27, 2015. This event was coordinated by Professional Field Services, coinciding with County Institute Day, and served to increase Illinois' teachers' knowledge of the unique brand of inquiry-based teaching and learning the Academy offers. Many of the presentations are available on IMSA's Digital Commons. <http://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/proflearningday/2015/>

- **NSTA Conference**

At the [NSTA 2015 Chicago National Conference](#), March 12-15, 2015, 14 presenters and co-presenters from IMSA offered 11 sessions. Faculty and Professional Field Services Staff presented on topics that included: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), science curriculum, opportunities for student collaboration, developing partnerships, and learner-centered instruction.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **12A. Consent Agenda**

I recommend approval of the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

In accordance with Board Policy, "Consent Agenda items will be voted on in the aggregate, in one resolution without questions or discussion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the regular agenda for questions and discussion by any Trustee in one of three ways. If possible, Trustees shall notify the Secretary of the Board at least 24 hours in advance of the Board Meeting. If this is not possible, Trustees shall notify the Chairman or Secretary of the Board immediately preceding the Board Meeting or shall indicate their request during the Board Meeting at the time the Consent Agenda is presented."

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **12B. Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **Electronic Communication with Students (New)**

Mary Spreitzer, VP/Chief Operating Officer, will present this Policy and reference the related Expectations. These were reviewed with the Executive Committee in February 2015. Multiple staff members have been involved in developing, reviewing and commenting on the drafts. We have considered several schools districts' policies and procedures, as well as legal counsel recommendations. The guidelines will be reviewed on a regular basis, and the Policy provides the President with the ability to amend the Expectations as the need arises.

We look forward to your feedback and questions. Second reading and action will be scheduled for May.

#### **Selection of Schools - IMSA Fusion (New) Admissions – IMSA Fusion (Rescind)**

Michelle Kolar, Executive Director, Professional Field Services, will present two related policies regarding IMSA Fusion. These were reviewed with the Executive Committee in February 2015. The new Policy shifts the focus from "admissions of students" to "selection of schools," reflecting the fact that IMSA is responsible for selecting schools, not selecting students; the latter is the responsibility of our Fusion program sites. With the approval of the new Policy, we also recommend that you rescind the current Policy.

We look forward to your feedback and questions. Second reading and action will be scheduled for May.

#### **Admissions Policy (Amend)**

Kelly Lofgren, Director of Admissions, and Dr. Robert Hernandez, Director of Student Affairs, will present proposed revisions to our Admissions Policy. These were reviewed with the Executive Committee in February 2015. We are not proposing a major overhaul of our Policy; however, there are some material changes including simplification and clarification of key terms and concepts

related to eligible and qualified, Review Committee Evaluation rating scale changes, addition of SAT-Writing scores for selection decisions, and different comparator demographics to be considered in selection.

Dr. Hernandez and Ms. Lofgren will provide an overview of the process they used to determine these recommendations, including: Dr. LuAnn Smith's review of current Policy and practices; a review of "sister school" policies and practices, many of which are modeled on ours; and a review of the upcoming SAT changes slated for 2016. After meeting with The College Board to discuss changes to the SAT, we plan to continue using the SAT as the "competitive examination" in our selection process – for now. Linked to the agenda is the proposed Policy; included in the Appendix is the current Policy and also a summary titled "IMSA Admissions Policy Through The Years."

We look forward to your feedback and questions. Second reading and action will be scheduled for May.

### **12C. IMSA's Priority Outcomes**

In my [Personal Reflection](#) of February 25, 2015, I indicated my plan to report to the Board of Trustees about IMSA's Priority Outcomes. This followed our Community Learning Day on February 13, 2015 where I led the faculty and staff through reflective dialogue on what institutional outcomes IMSA should pursue—so that in 5-7 years, IMSA is recognized as achieving its overall impact goal. Linked to this agenda are "IMSA's Priority Outcomes" which will focus my work and our work over the next 18 months.

As I mentioned in my Leadership Matters introduction, if you wish to formally adopt IMSA's Priority Outcomes, this will be an action item in May.

While we will not be able to continue fully engaging Mission Measurement as we move forward, due to financial limitations, I want to recognize and thank the consultants who worked with us and helped us get this far, Matt Groch '93 and Sophie Walker. In the Appendix you will find a summary report they prepared following our Administrative Retreat.