



# Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy<sup>®</sup>

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

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

**José M. Torres, Ph.D.**

**September 21, 2016**

### LEADERSHIP MATTERS

The following provides an update on my leadership of the Academy.

#### IMSA Leadership Profile

To provide Trustees with a report of activities and efforts of note, I continue to base the Report of the President on the Leadership Profile Components used by the Trustees to evaluate the President's performance: (1) Institutional Planning (and Executing); (2) Financial/Business Model; (3) Innovations in Teaching and Learning and in STEM Talent Development; (4) Institutional Research and Scholarship on Program Effectiveness and RoI; (5) Thought Leadership in STEM Education Policy; and (6) Stakeholder's Positive Action(s) on Behalf of IMSA. For additional information and updates on IMSA, please see my [Personal Reflections](#) that provide general observations shared with IMSA Stakeholders throughout the year.

#### Institutional Planning (and Executing)

We launched our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year as an institution with Convocation, which was held on Thursday, August 18, 2016. Two of our alumni joined us that day—Yuanxia Ding ('00) was our keynote speaker and shared her perspective on the difference between achievements and accomplishments. Emily Camras ('13) performed a musical selection on her cello. (My remarks: [http://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/pres\\_addresses/1/](http://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/pres_addresses/1/))

We begin this Academic year with 652 students—212 in the Class of 2017, 211 in the Class of 2018 and 229 in the Class of 2019. The remodeled A Wing science laboratories were ready for the first day of class. There has been a steady stream of excited students checking out the new facilities.

IN2 will open soon. I invite the Board of Trustees to join us for a tour of each of these two facilities at the conclusion of our Board Meeting today.

Our 30<sup>th</sup> Community Learning Day was held on August 15, 2016. During Community Learning Day, we provided tours of the IN2 facility, shared with staff a process for submitting a problem/challenge to IN2, wrote "welcome letters" to our sophomores, and sought input from participants on prioritizing grand challenges for IMSA faculty consideration.

My Cabinet and I participated in an off-site retreat at the Northern Illinois University campus in early August. At the retreat, we revisited the IMSA Impact Priority Outcomes and Indicators (i.e., DRAFT IMSA Score Card) and began to revise them based on our experiences last year. I will report on these indicators as part of my Report of the President once these have been refined.

We are engaging in our biennial review of Board Policies. As in the past, we will provide to the Board a first reading of policies that have a substantial change during Executive Board Session. Policies that we simply ask to reaffirm or have minor changes will be placed under the consent agenda. Trustees are always welcome to request that policies or items on the consent agenda be pulled in order to discuss prior to action.

The IMSA campus was filled with learners of all ages this summer—from third graders through preservice teachers. Through our Summer@IMSA, Fusion, SEAMS, SIR and Golden Apple programs we provided educational experiences to over 1,000 students and over 1,000 educators from across Illinois. We conducted 34 State Educator Initiative (SEI) programs and 26 State Student Initiatives (SSI) programs.

Dr. Norman “Storm” Robinson will be joining us as our new Executive Director of Professional Field Services on Monday, September 26, 2016. Dr. Robinson comes to us from the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing (CEISMC) at the Georgia Institute of Technology where he was the Program Director charged with the design and delivery of a suite of STEAM programs for the purpose of providing professional development for teachers, and increasing student interest, participation and performance in STEAM-related learning and careers. He also has managed education outreach programs focused on engineering and robotics and served as an aerospace education specialist at NASA’s Aerospace Education Services Project, delivering professional development to educators internationally on the effective use of instructional strategies to increase performance and interest in STEM teaching and learning.

### **Financial/Business Model**

Chairman Griffin, Founding Board Chair Emeritus Pearson, Vice President for External Engagement Dr. Jeffery Margolis (’00), COO/CIO Mr. Lawrence Bergie, Executive Director of Business and Financial Operations Ms. Kimberly Corrao, and I had a very productive legislative planning meeting on August 16, 2016 with our Government Relations Consultants, Fletcher, O’Brien, Kasper & Nottage. We developed near-term strategies to support our ongoing operations needs in FY17 and FY18. To successfully implement the strategies, IMSA will need to continue to develop our outreach and relationships with the General Assembly and Governor’s Office.

### **Innovations in Teaching and Learning and in STEM Talent Development**

Over the past 18 months, I have been nurturing IMSA’s relationships with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) through their new State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Smith. ISBE requested IMSA to submit a proposal to expand the Fusion (include grades K-3), SIR and TALENT programs. Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jason Helfer reviewed the proposal and is interested in working with IMSA to determine the best way to align IMSA’s offerings with ISBE’s Pathway objectives. We will be meeting with Dr. Jason Helfer, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning to further pursue our discussions.

On September 8-9, 2016 I was in Washington, D.C. participating in forums hosted by the National Science Foundation. The first day was an Active Learning Symposium with State Mathematics and Science Teachers of the Year and the next day was a Next Generation STEM High School Forum.

### **Institutional Research and Scholarship on Program Effectiveness and Rol**

As the Board knows, we have struggled to staff our Office of Institutional Research (OIR) since December 2015 when Mr. Christopher Kolar resigned to take a position in Palo Alto Unified School District. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Amber Stitzel Pareja has accepted our offer to join the Academy as the Executive Director of OIR. Her first day was Monday, September 19, 2016. Dr. Pareja comes to us from the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research where she has served since 2008 in multiple research positions. Most recently, she has been the Principal Investigator for the Illinois Principal Preparation Implementation Review Project (I-PREP.) She began her education career as a second and third grade bilingual (Spanish-English) teacher and also taught fifth grade internationally in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

### **Thought Leadership in STEM Education Policy**

We continue to be an active participant in efforts being conducted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Joint Leadership Committee on the Illinois P-20 Council, and the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth led by Secretary Beth Purvis; and the Governor's Technology Advisory Group in which Dr. Margolis and I serve on different sub-committees.

Dr. Beth Purvis joined Founding Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus Mr. James Pearson, Mr. Jerry Rich, Dr. Margolis, and I on Friday, September 16, 2016 to discuss Leadership for STEM in Illinois, our plans for IMSA's fiscal sustainability (e.g., funding models), and Illinois Economic Development Opportunities.

We will be hosting a delegation from Taiwan this week. The Taiwanese delegation is coming through the NIU education department. The 12 students and 3 chaperones will be shadowing IMSA students for the day. We are looking forward to welcoming them.

### **Stakeholders' Positive Actions on Behalf of IMSA**

Our Admissions Office is already beginning its recruitment of the Class of 2020. On September 17, 2016 they held our first Preview Day, approximately 1,000 family members attended.

Executive Director for Human Resources Ms. Traci Ellis was a panelist at a women's development leadership conference hosted by the "Women in Leadership Development" (WILD) group at Sears.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Margolis and his team for developing and submitting our application for the 2016 Chicago Innovation Awards. IMSA and the Fusion program are among the Innovation Awards nominees. IMSA Fusion was one of 643 nominees. We have advanced to the top 100 from which the 25 winners will be selected. A reception honoring the nominees was held on September 7, 2016. The winners will be announced at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Innovation Awards event on October 25, 2016.

Our Fusion *Mars: Manifest Destiny* grant request was approved by Boeing.

Dr. Danielle DuCharme ('98), Associate Professor of Biology was named 2016 Waubensee Community College outstanding faculty member.

In response to my offer to host an Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the IBHE asked IMSA to host one of its 2017 board meetings. We will be hosting the December 12, 2017 meeting at IMSA. This will provide us an excellent opportunity to showcase our new teaching and learning spaces: Science Labs, A Wing and Innovation Hub.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Consent Agenda

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

### **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

14.A. Director of Admissions Ms. Kelly Lofgren will present an overview of IMSA's Class of 2019. The presentation will include demographics of new students, including a breakdown of class by grade level, gender, race/ethnicity, geographic region, SAT scores and GPA, along with significant trends from a comparison of the past five years. Also reviewed will be statistics and trends for those offered admission from the Waitpool, demographics of students who decline our offer to attend the Academy and data on prior IMSA involvement and how applicants hear about IMSA.

14 B. Vice President for External Engagement Dr. Jeffrey Margolis ('00) presents the goals of IMSA 30, along with our theme and plans for a year of celebration. Dr. Margolis will address our communication and fundraising plans as well. This presentation is for information and discussion only.

14.C. Dates for next year's Regular and Executive Committee Board of Trustee meetings will be presented for your consideration.

14 D. Presentation—An introductory conversation “Transitioning to IMSA” with Executive Director of Development Barbara Graham.