

## 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.**

**November 15, 2017**

#### LEADERSHIP MATTERS

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

##### Leadership Priorities and Profile

To provide Trustees with a report of activities and efforts of note, I organize the Report of the President, where appropriate, around the **Priorities for 2017-2018**:

- ❖ Guide the integration of UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- ❖ Advance equity and excellence
- ❖ Host the International Student Science Fair in June 2018
- ❖ Meet the 12 targets proposed on the IMSA Operational Excellence Dashboard organized under the seven Priority Outcomes

and 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.

##### Integrating UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On September 21 we took time out during our busy day to celebrate the International Day of Peace. Dr. Anita White led the ceremony that was held in the Old Cafeteria. This supports UN SDG, 16<sup>th</sup> goal—Peace and Justice.

I have incorporated a standing agenda item in my Cabinet meetings that includes “UN Sustainable Development Goals” to maintain this priority front and center during our weekly meetings. Dr. Hernandez has incorporated the same practice in his faculty meeting agendas, as well. We have also created a database for each UN SDG and targets with the aim of coding or identifying classroom practices, outreach activities, and research that align with the goals and targets.

##### Advance Equity and Excellence

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month there was a Latinx Read-In on October 2, 2017. The event was co-sponsored by the IRC, English Department, History Department, World Languages, Alma

Latina and Peer Multicultural Educators. The Read-In featured an introduction to Hispanic Heritage Month by the World Language faculty, literature by Latinx authors and a call to support the disaster victims in Puerto Rico and Mexico.

On October 30, 2017, 28 of our staff participated in a SafeZone Train-the Trainer Program. This day long training was presented by the LGBTQ Academy at the Gay Alliance. The participants in the program now have the skills to train others within the Academy.

### **Host the International Student Science Fair in June 2018**

At today's meeting Ms. Mary Collins and Ms. Katie Berger will provide an update on the work being done to finalize arrangements for the International Student Science Fair June 27 through July 1, 2018. Earlier this month, I made a presentation to the principals who comprise the Executive Working Group of the International Student Science Network. All of them are excited to be joining us this upcoming summer. Invitations will be extended to schools during the December/January time period.

### **IMSA Operational Excellence Dashboard**

The November 2017 update of the IMSA Operational Excellence Dashboard is attached and will be highlighted during my Report of the President. ([See Appendix A](#)).

### **Institutional Planning (and Executing)**

In our continuing effort to build leadership capability Cabinet launched a new Senior Leadership Team. In addition to the Cabinet members, all Director-level staff, including Executive, Associate, and Assistant Directors are members. The purpose of this new team is to align leadership of the Academy with the strategic work (Mission, Impact and Outcomes; Dashboard; UN17; Equity and Excellence; and ISSF) as well as to:

- Distribute leadership and create wider ownership of our success;
- Create a culture of "inclusive leadership;"
- Provide quality professional development; and
- Strengthen communication

The team will meet once a month throughout the calendar year. Once a quarter they will participate in a focused professional development. For FY17, the professional development focus will be on Gallup's Strength Finders as we move to make IMSA a "strengths-based" organization.

We have begun the search for a new principal. A search committee has been formed consisting of seventeen people from across the Academy and is being led by Traci Ellis, Executive Director of Human Resources. After much discussion regarding the principal role, the committee is recommending that we search for a "Dean of Instruction" (working title), whose main focus will be ensuring that our curriculum and pedagogy support and contribute to a learning laboratory and supporting and developing faculty. The committee is crafting a mission statement, a set of outcomes, and a list of competencies that will form the "scorecard" for the "Dean" position, which we will use to announce the position before winter break.

We held our annual Veterans' Day Assembly on Friday, November 10, 2017. Our keynote speaker was Lieutenant Commander Alex Dietrich '97.

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

IN2 was named the winner of the 2017 Chicago Innovation Awards' People's Choice Award. Interim Principal Bob Hernandez as well as Trustees Roche and Rosner were on hand to accept the award on behalf of IMSA at the October 30<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony at the Harris Theatre. In addition to the October 30<sup>th</sup> event, IMSA will receive an invitation to ring the NASDAQ bell in New York City on March 26, 2018; received recognition in a two-page spread in Crain's November 6, 2017 issue; and will be invited to separate luncheons with Mayor Emanuel, Governor Rauner and Cook County President Toni Periwinkle.

The National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools held their 2017 Professional Conference in Chicago from November 1 through November 4, 2017. Dr. Bob Hernandez is on the NCSSS Board of Directors and introduced IMSA alum Major Kenyatta Ruffin '99 as the keynote speaker to kick off the conference. On Saturday, November 4 conference participants visited IMSA for a tour of our science labs, IN2, and a briefing our research on redesigning biology instruction.

### **Stakeholder's Positive Action(s) on Behalf of IMSA**

On October 11, 2017 representatives from the Illinois Board of Higher Education met with Cabinet and Ms. Kimberly Corrao to review our proposed FY19 budget. The representatives from IBHE had an opportunity to tour the facility prior to the meeting.

Tami Armstrong, Director, Office of Public Affairs, and her team completed the *IMSA 360 Winter 2017* digital flipbook edition. The flipbook was distributed to IMSA stakeholders including staff, alumni, legislators, and friends via Constant Contact e-mail. It is also available on our website under Institutional Publications.

On October 21, 2017 the IMSA community joined relief efforts for Puerto Rico. There were more than 80 volunteers from the community in addition to IMSA students. Over 24,000 pounds of items were collected (water, toiletries, first aid items, flashlights, etc.) with donations coming from all over the area. The IMSA Zumbathon had 32 in attendance and is close to meeting its \$1,000 goal from cash donations from participants, IMSA students "penny drive" and our online IMSA "Mi Gente Disaster Relief Fund" donation site.

### **Leadership Update from Cabinet Members**

Interim Principal Dr. Bob Hernandez and Chief Operating Officer/Chief Information Officer Mr. Lawrence "Bud" Bergie will provide updates ([Appendix B](#) and [C](#)).