

# 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.**

**November 16, 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 organize the Report of the President around 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 presented IMSA's proposed FY18 budget proposal to the Illinois Board of Higher Education via conference call on October 20, 2016. Joining me for the conference call were Vice President for External Engagement Dr. Jeffrey Margolis ('00), Chief Operating Officer Mr. Lawrence Bergie, Executive Director of Business and Financial Operations Ms. Kimberly Corrao, and Executive Director of Human Resources Ms. Traci Ellis. The IBHE staff was complimentary of our request.

At Board of Trustees Dr. Luis Núñez's suggestion, I reached out to Mr. Tomassini, Principal of CROEM (Centro Residencial de Oportunidades Educativas de Mayagüez), an IMSA-like school in Puerto Rico that was founded in 1967-1968 (approaching 50 years of operation)<sup>1</sup>. Each year CROEM, a residential high school for gifted students, has approximately 300 students on their wait list. In an effort to serve these additional students CROEM created opportunities for students to attend as day school students. This past year, the Education Department in Puerto Rico expanded CROEM's programs to two additional campuses. Trustee Núñez, Science Faculty Dr. Peter Dong, and I visited CROEM and CROEC (a new campus in Ceiba, Puerto Rico) on November 3 and 4, 2016 to develop a better understanding of how they are meeting their current challenges, including implementing a day school program and opening multiple campuses and to consider potential research partnerships with these sister schools. We also visited with Edgard Rivera-Valentin, Staff Planetary Scientist at the Arecibo Observatory (<http://www.naic.edu/>) and discussed potential research opportunities, including an Intercession program for our IMSA students.

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

Three of our students participated in the Japan Super Science Fair held at Ritsumeikan High School October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 6, 2016. Divya Dureja ('17) presented an oral presentation. Claudia

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<sup>1</sup> They are older than the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSM) that was established in 1980.

Zhu ('18) and Herschel Gupta ('17) participated in poster presentations. Research Faculty Dr. Vandana Chinwalla accompanied the students.

IMSA has been working with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to expand the Fusion program into the primary grades of kindergarten through grade 3. As a result, IMSA will be entering into a contract with ISBE valued at approximately \$200,000 to develop curriculum resources for kindergarten through third grade and provide professional development to teachers in FY17. We are finalizing the scope of work to include continued professional development for Illinois schools on the New Generation Science Standards (NGSS) through the Regional Offices of Education and ISBE's Math and Science Partnership Grant. We will continue our conversations with ISBE about a potential partnership to provide the SIR and TALENT programs to Illinois schools.

On September 28, 2016 I participated in the Governor's Children Cabinet. Secretary of Education Dr. Beth Purvis co-chaired this meeting, which is chaired by Governor Bruce Rauner and attended by each State Agency head. The purpose of the meeting was to identify 3-5 opportunities for change that would result in significant improvements to conditions for Illinois children. The projects that we selected include the following: Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce Development, Illinois Apprenticeship Plus Initiative and Reducing Childhood Lead Burden. IMSA is part of the Reducing Childhood Lead Burden project team and proposed hosting a "hackathon" in January 2017.

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

I was an invited panelist at the Underserved Gifted Populations Summit sponsored by the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University, the Illinois Association for Gifted Children, and School District U-46 held in Evanston, Illinois on October 15, 2016. The panel session focused on various topics related to serving culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse gifted children. There were approximately 135 attendees at the event.

For the third year in a row, I was selected as a facilitator for the Education Session at the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation Conference on November 18, 2016. The moderator for the session is State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia. Panel participants included: Rolling Meadows High School Counselor and IL School Counselor Association's 2016 Outstanding High School Counselor of the Year Ms. Gabriela Medina; Superintendent of Berwyn North School District 98 Dr. Carmen I. Ayala; President of Kankakee Community College Dr. John Avendano; and President and CEO of Instituto del Progreso Latino and the recipient of the 2015 MacArthur "Genius" Grant Mr. Juan Salgado.

Our Advancing the Human Condition meetings resumed under the leadership of Vice President Margolis, Principal Dr. Marie Dahleh, Executive Director Dr. Bob Hernandez, and Executive Director Dr. Norman "Storm" Robinson. We selected IMSA's Grand Challenges, which reflect the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We are organizing our grand challenges into two broad categories—"Social Justice and Well-Being" and "Sustainability and Prosperity" and made "Local and International Partnerships" our foundation. Our aim is to create pathways and opportunities for IMSA students to engage in solving real-world problems.

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

On September 27, 2016 I met with local school superintendents including, Dr. Karen Sullivan (District 204), Dr. Jeffery Craig, West Aurora (District 129), new Oswego (District 308) Superintendent Dr. John Sparlin, and a representative for Aurora East District 131 at a meeting convened by Senator Linda Holmes and attended by Representatives Stephanie Kifowit and Linda Chapa LaVia.

Chairman Ms. Sheila MB Griffin, IMSA Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus Mr. James Pearson, Vice President Margolis and I met with Secretary Dr. Purvis and Governor Rauner on October 6, 2016. We discussed the future funding of IMSA, IMSA's opportunities for growth and sustainability, and the 2018 International Student Science Fair (ISSF). Illinois' bicentennial will also be in 2018 and the ISSF will be designated as a key state event.

Vice President Margolis, Founding Board Chair Emeritus Pearson and I met with Senator Karen McConnaughay on October 28, 2016 to discuss the future funding of IMSA, our opportunities for growth and sustainability and the 2018 International Student Science Fair.

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

Dr. Dahleh and Dr. Robinson will provide a brief update during our November 16, 2016 Board meeting. These will appear as Attachments A and B to my report.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Consent Agenda

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

#### **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

14A. Principal Dahleh and the Coordinator of College and Academic Counseling Ms. Julia Husen will review the findings from the fall 2015 Review of the College and Academic Counseling Program. Dr. Dahleh and Ms. Husen will summarize the findings and the CAC office response to these findings. This work falls under the pillar of STEM Teaching and Learning.

14B. Executive Director of Human Resources Ms. Traci Ellis introduces Multicultural Education Specialist Dr. Adrienne Coleman who will provide a Status Report of the Diversity Plan. Dr. Coleman will be joined by Dr. Peter Dong and several Peer Multicultural Educators.

14C. Presentation —Transitioning to IMSA with Executive Director of Institutional Research Dr. Amber Stitzel Pareja, Ph.D.