

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.

January 17, 2018

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)

Robert Chang, Chief Strategy Officer, led the creation of a database to catalogue information about the various programs/curriculum that has been developed at IMSA around the UN SDGs. This will be updated on a continuous basis and will be shared throughout the Academy. We ultimately hope that we can use this database to reach out to our alumni and partner on some of the development goals.

Advance Equity and Excellence

Dr. Adrienne Coleman, Director of Equity and Inclusion and Dr. Amber Pareja, Executive Director Office of Institutional Research presented the Diversity Plan Progress report and Diversity Climate Survey Results as part of the Diversity Speaker Series. They focused on the highlights from the academic year 2016-2017.

We held our Martin Luther King Assembly on January 16.

We are presenting a Board policy on equity and excellence for Trustee discussion, but postponing recommended action to allow additional input from staff, including faculty. The proposed policy will be proposed to the Board in March.

Host the International Student Science Fair in June 2018

Invitations to the International Science Schools Network schools were extended on December 21. Since then we have received responses from eight schools that plan on attending the event. Our next step is to identify additional schools that we plan on inviting. Our goal is to have those invitations extended by the end of January. In the meantime work is underway to finalize programs for principals, teachers and students.

IMSA Operational Excellence Dashboard

The January 2018 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)

My Cabinet had its semi-annual retreat December 18 and 19th. During the first day we reconfirmed the Academy's three areas of focus—UN SDG, Equity and Excellence and using ISSF to position IMSA as a global leader. We spent time discussing the Innovation Campus and the Second Campus. After the December Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting we met with all staff to inform them of our new initiatives. The participants were asked to identify what project they would like to work on going forward. (See [Appendix B](#)) During the retreat we identified the teams and the action items to move the work forward. The efforts will be rolled-out during our February Community Day.

The second day of the retreat we focused on Strengths Based Leadership Coaching. The Academy's Leadership team have all taken the Gallup Strengths assessment. By understanding each other's strengths we should be able to successfully identify the talents that will help us to achieve our ultimate goals. A number of the Cabinet members have "Achiever" as one of their top five strengths. That is encouraging since we have a lot to achieve over the next couple of years.

Thought Leadership in STEM Education Policy

I participated in the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth meeting in Springfield. The meeting recapped the three projects that the Cabinet had been focused on during the year and identified potential new projects for the member organizations to focus on during the upcoming year. I also attended the P-20 Council meeting.

As I continue to develop my own skills I participated in an OpEd training session supported by the Broad Foundation. I have been assigned a mentor and will be developing an OpEd piece for publication.

Our strategic partner, Flinn Scientific, provided the following information on Fusion customers by state. During 2017 there were 49 returning customers in Illinois and Missouri and 18 new customers from nine different states.

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

On December 2nd we hosted Congressman Bill Foster's STEM Connection event. There were 11 exhibitors and according to the Congressman's office between 275-300 individuals attended the event.

On December 5 we held our Take Your Legislator to Lunch event. The following legislators toured IMSA and participate in the luncheon: Representatives David Olsen, Sara Jimenez, Bob Pritchard, Steve Anderson, Linda Chapa LaVia, William Davis, Grant Wehrli and Mike Fortner; and Senators Karen McConnaughay and Linda Holmes.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education held their annual meeting at IMSA on December 12.

We have had very positive discussions with the Mayor of Aurora and his key staff. We are discussing with them our plans for the Innovation Campus and partnering with them to support this effort.

As a reminder the Board of Trustee retreat is scheduled for May 4 and 5, 2018.

Leadership Update from Cabinet Members

Interim Principal Dr. Bob Hernandez and Executive Director of Human Resources Ms. Traci Ellis will provide updates (Appendix [C](#) and [D](#)).