

## 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 21, 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)

At our February 16 Community Day Dr. Robert Hernandez and Dr. Norman "Storm" Robinson III provided an update of the work being done at the Academy around SDGs. They will also be presenting an update to the Board at today's meeting.

##### Advance Equity and Excellence

The second Diversifying STEM Think Tank was held on March 13. The goal of the event was to understand from the perspective of STEM professionals, educators, and diversity/inclusion officers strategies to diversify and strengthen the STEM education to career pipeline. The event was open to STEM professionals, educators, community organizations and Diversity/Inclusion & Equity officers. There were 5 panelists who provided brief presentations. Following those presentations the participants formed groups to focus on specific topics.

“I’m Not a Racist” training was held for all juniors February 28. I attended the screening of the movie and conducted rounds during the facilitation of the small group conversations, which were led by a two-member team of IMSA staff that included faculty.

Equity and Excellence was one of the topics of Community Day. Dr. Anna Kaatz from the University of Wisconsin presented research on implicit bias in STEM and evidenced-based interventions to decrease such bias.

Finally, the Equity and Excellence policy will be submitted for Board consideration today. This is the third reading after multiple opportunities for staff and faculty conversations.

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

ISSF will start in 97 days. More than 30 schools have accepted our invitation to participate. All of the committees are busy wrapping up loose ends. We will be extending invitations to the Trustees to participate in some of the sessions in the next several weeks.

### **IMSA Operational Excellence Dashboard**

The March 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)**

The Cabinet’s Senior Leadership Team continues to meet on a monthly basis. During the monthly meetings the participants learn about developments throughout the Academy and also have a chance to participate in personal development opportunities. At our last meeting, they provided feedback to the Office of Public Affairs regarding new IMSA logos. Tami Armstrong will also seek feedback on the IMSA logos at a future Faculty meeting.

I met with the Student Council on February 7 to discuss IMSA’s 30 year vision and solicit ideas about how to involve students moving forward.

Bud Bergie and I met with University of Illinois President Timothy Killeen and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Wilson on January 27. While we were in Champaign we also met with State Senator Scott Bennett and Representative Carol Ammons, and the Fox Development Corporation, the company that designed the UIUC Research Park.

The IMSA bill, SB2939, Senate hearing was held in Springfield on March 13. Robert Hernandez and Bud Bergie joined me at the hearing. We provided testimony and responded to questions from the senators. I met with senators and representatives on March 14 and attended the Senate Appropriations hearing on March 15. Also at the Senate Appropriations hearing were all of my Cabinet members, Tami Armstrong and three students: Kyle Campbell from Riverton, Nyxel Camarena from Berwyn, and Takudzwa George from Calumet City.

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

I participated in the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth meeting in Chicago on March 8. The purpose of the meeting was to identify new projects the agency members of the Cabinet will be focusing on in the upcoming year. I also participated the P-20 Council meeting on March 12.

I was named a finalist for the 2018 Gold Apply Stanley C. Golder Leadership Award. This is the fifth year that Golden Apple will honor a Principal or Head of School for transformative excellence in school leadership. Chairman Roche joined me at the Celebration of Excellence in Teaching and Leadership on February 24. Two site observers visited IMSA on March 7 to meet with stakeholders, including faculty, staff, parents, community, and students. The winner of the award will be recognized at the Golden Leadership Award Gala on May 19, 2018.

On February 26 President Alan Cramb from the Illinois Institute of Technology visited IMSA. He was joined by Mike Gosz, Vice President of Enrollment, Samantha Sleva, Associate Director, and Markie Rhodes, Admissions Counselor. They toured the facility, including Grainger Center and SIR. They also met with Julia Husen, Dr. Sanza Kazadi, and Britta McKenna. Members of my Cabinet joined us over lunch.

I was invited to present the luncheon keynote to over 1,200 attendees at the statewide ESSA conference on February 13, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Chicago. The topic of my speech was "Nurturing the Next Generation of Discoverers, Creators and Thinkers."

I participated in the IAGC 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention, February 1-3. I was a co-presenter with April Wells, Elgin School District U-46. Our topic was Equitable Access to Gifted Education in School District U-46.

The PFS Fusion project was chosen to be a legacy program of the Bicentennial Commission. On February 23 Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti and Deputy Governor Leslie Munger were at IMSA to announce the program. IN2 was filled with students, faculty and staff. The Lieutenant Governor and Deputy Governor remained after the announcement to talk to the students and staff.

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

Professional Field Services hosted its annual Teacher Professional Development on March 2 and 3. This year PFS partnered with NOAA to develop the two days of professional development. Many of our faculty led sessions. This event also provided faculty members an opportunity to do a trial run of the workshops they will be facilitating at ISSF.

I met with David Mosena, President and CEO of the Museum of Science and Industry on January 30, to discuss ideas for fundraising and development at IMSA. He provided several referrals and introductions to me.

I participated in the IMSA Fund Board meeting on February 9 and continue to be in regular communication with the Board of Directors as we transition to a new Executive Director. I have appointed Tami Armstrong to serve as Interim Executive Director until we fill the position

permanently. Tami remains as our Director of the Office of Public Affairs and will manage the day to day activities of the office staff. I will work closely with the IMSA Fund Board of Directors.

We continue to meet with the City of Aurora to move forward the development of our Innovation Campus. The Mayor is very supportive of the project and is exploring various ways to provide assistance.

On February 22, I met with Adele Simmons, President of the Global Philanthropy Partnership. We talked about what IMSA is doing with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the upcoming ISSF.

I attended the Commercial Club meeting on February 21. The speaker was Dr. Janice Jackson, CPS Chief Education Officer. I am following up with Dr. Jackson on ways that IMSA and CPS could deepen our partnership.

**Leadership Update from Cabinet Members**

Interim Principal Dr. Bob Hernandez and COO/CIO Mr. Lawrence Bergie will provide updates (Appendix C and D).