

Tenth Message from the President
October 7th, 2021

Dear Friends of IMSA,

I hope you are doing well. We've had a great start to our in-person school year. Seventeen months of remote learning was a challenging endeavor for students as they could not be around friends, as well as faculty and staff because they had completely flipped their approaches to teaching, learning and collaborating. As a result, you might imagine returning to school, embracing our sense of community, and COVID mitigation have been top priorities this fall. I'm pleased to report not only joy among students and colleagues for being together, but also zero COVID cases over the past two weeks. We've even commissioned a trophy to celebrate!



As the new IMSA President, I'd like to share a little bit about my background and why IMSA is such a good fit. I was born, raised and started my career in Illinois as a math teacher with a physics teaching endorsement. I am a STEM kid at heart, and still teach and help students with their homework. I left in 1999 to pursue my doctoral work in instructional technology, both to develop research skills and for an interest in leveraging connections across disciplines through inquiry-based approaches to learning with technology. Through that process, I learned I loved research, but also missed working among school-aged children. At the time, I learned there were STEM schools around the country where high school students engaged in research, and that propelled me to pursue leadership opportunities at progressive institutions on the east coast for the past 18 years. During that time, I also started a family, so coming to IMSA nurtures both my passion for STEM and research, along with a little more space for my family to enjoy midwestern values and a sense of community.

What I also love about STEM schools is the broader community embedded through the student learning experience. Professionals serve as mentors for research projects, judges on panels for entrepreneurial pitches, and guest

speakers to inspire interests in STEM careers and strength in identity. In a way, you show our current students what's possible. Sharing similar experiences you had growing up offers empathy in the challenging road they endure. In effect, your stories and mentoring nurture efficacy and confidence when times are tough, as well as hope for opportunity through their work and motivation.

In this school year, there are several ways you can contribute to our efforts. The Academy is prioritizing Well-Being, Equity and Excellence and Impact of our programs around the state. To offer a few examples, we want to ensure students have a sense of belonging now that they've returned in-person; we want to ensure our faculty candidate pool is diverse; and we want to ensure our extension and pre-enrollment programs, like summer camps and PROMISE, reach non-IMSA students and teachers across the whole state and from all backgrounds. You can see our specific objectives and targets in our [Operational Excellence Dashboard](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out if you steer efforts in your profession, or if your organization facilitates programming that would engage our campus in our priority areas. The contributions of our extended community only make us stronger, and through these efforts, our students develop an understanding of why community matters in their development as well those who they will serve in the future. Thank you for being connected to IMSA and making a difference.

Titans Together,
Evan

Dr. Evan M. Glazer
President

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