

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

José M. Torres, PhD

May 15, 2019

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

This report provides the Board of Trustees with information regarding Academy activities and the progress that we are making toward achieving our IMSA Impact and Outcomes Statement and Priority Outcomes. I organize the Report of the President, where appropriate, around the IMSA Impact and Outcomes document:

Three pillars:

1. STEM Teaching and Learning
2. Operational Capacity
3. Stakeholder Engagement

One Strategy—Strengthen Employee Engagement

and IMSA's **four priorities for Academic Year 2018-2019:**

- Guide the integration of UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- Advance equity and excellence
- Develop our international strategy
- Work on phase 1 of the innovation campus

I provide information, updates and general observations with IMSA stakeholders, including IMSA employees, students, and parents via my [Personal Reflections](#) throughout the year.

STEM Teaching and Learning

15th International Student Science Fair (ISSF) 2019 Singapore

You might recall that IMSA hosted the 14th ISSF for the first time on USA soil. We sent three of our students, Xander Hall '20, Emily Sallenback '19 and Shruti Shakthivel'20, to participate in ISSF 2019 at the National Junior College in Singapore this past March. Accompanying them were Ms. Marti Shirley, Math Faculty, and Dr. Robert Hernandez. Shruti won Best Young Research Scientist and was part of a group honored with the Ideation Award in the Design Challenge. Xander was a member of the group winning Best Engineering Award in the Design Challenge.

Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN)

One of the goals of the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) is to encourage and support educators to find ways of helping their students learn about the goals and work of the United Nations. Each year CTAUN issues an Excellence in Education Award at their Conference. Our biology faculty (Jessica Amacher, Sowmya Anjur, Don Dosch, Sarah O'Leary-Driscoll and Crystal Randall) submitted their project "Envisioning a Sustainable Urban Center Built Upon Biology Principals" for consideration for the award. On March 8, we were notified that our team was one of five recipients for The Excellence in Education Award. The award was presented during the 2019 CTAUN Conference held at UN Headquarters in New York City on April 5, 2019. Assistant Director of Student Life, Ms. Andrea Stuiber attended the annual conference and represented IMSA. The Conference title was "Our Planet-Our Crisis-What's Next?"

Selection Committee Class of 2022

While not a member of the Admission's Selection Committee, I usually attend the week-long process, which was April 15 through April 18. During this time period, we reviewed 557 applications and accepted 231 students. We also placed an additional 74 students in the Waitpool.

IMSAloquium

IMSAloquium was held on April 26. There were over 200 students participating representing the SIR and, for the first time in IMSA history, IMSA's Steve and Jaime Chen Center for Innovation and Inquiry interns programs. There were over 100 presentations and 70 poster presentations. Ms. Silvia Alvarez-Clare, Tree Conservation Ecologist, Center for Tree Science Academic Mentor from the Morton Arboretum, provided the keynote speech.

Innovation Showcase 2019

IMSA's Steve and Jaime Chen Center for Innovation and Inquiry (IN2) held its first Innovation Showcase on April 29. In addition to student projects, faculty and staff also showcased projects. We were excited to welcome Ms. Betsy Ziegler, CEO of 1871 as our keynote speaker. It was a great evening of sharing, learning and celebration about the innovation projects across our IMSA community.

Student Leadership Exchange

Our sophomore students presented their final Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) projects during the Student Leadership Exchange on May 1. Over 60 project teams presented in one of three categories—IMPACT, EnACT and SocEnt. IMPACT, which stands for Information Motivating Public Activism, allows students to explore the information power of data journalism. Students learn about both the data analysis aspect and the storytelling aspect of data

journalism. EnACT allows students to analyze public policy while learning about politics and our government. The purpose of SocEnt, which stands for Social Entrepreneurship, is to foster entrepreneurial skills and social thinking in students and emphasize leadership in those fields. The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals serve as the organizing theme for LEAD.

Hollister Lecture

The annual Hollister Lecture was also held on May 1. The Hollister Lecture, sponsored by the family of IMSA's former faculty Dr. Bernard Hollister, informs students about various social issues and topics in student leadership. Our speaker this year, James Robilotta, author, professional speaker, personal coach, and entrepreneur, published his first book in 2015, "Leading Imperfectly: The value of being authentic for leaders, professionals, and human beings."

Considerations in Ethics (CinE)

Considerations in Ethics (CinE) is a series of sessions comprised of a lecture on a subject or topic in Ethics followed by a peer-to-peer facilitated breakout session. We appreciate History and Social Science Faculty Dr. Lee Eysturid, who has facilitated CinE for many years. After visiting these sessions over the past several years, I am working with Principal Hernandez to clearly define outcomes of ethics at IMSA and to determine how best to systematically integrate ethics into our Academy. We will not run CinE next year as we explore our options.

Summer Programming and Facilities

I was notified that our summer roof repairs will not occur this summer. The State is not able to award the contract for construction in time for this summer. The renovation of the Auditorium, supported by a special "Save a Seat" campaign, is on track and will begin immediately following the sophomore class orientation in June.

Scholarship and Innovation Committee

Dr. Kelly Page and I continue to meet with the IMSA Scholarship and Innovation Committee. At the last meeting, held on April 25, committees presented their individual work products. Our next steps are to: finalize a video from the Innovation Showcase and compile the work from the three individual committees into one coherent brief document.

Stakeholder Engagement

I continue to represent IMSA in a number of local and state-wide committees, such as, the *Aurora Education Commission*, which Angela Rowley attends for me and the *P-20 Council*, which held its first new meeting under the new Administration on April 19, chaired by Deputy Governor for Education, Jesse Ruiz.

I held my last few meetings with the *President's Student Advisory Council* and the *President's Faculty Advisory Council* over the past two months. Based on feedback from these members, I plan to continue this Councils next year.

Northern Illinois University Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Last month, IMSA entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Northern Illinois University and National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. The MOU is to promote academic cooperation and exchange. See attachment.

Seattle Alumni Outreach

Tami Armstrong and I traveled to Seattle May 4-6 to meet with alumni living in the Seattle area. One of our alumni, Joe Beda '93 and his wife, Sharon, hosted a dinner for us Saturday night. There were 10 guests attending representing alumni from 1993 and 2013. On Sunday we held a social function for other alumni living in the Seattle area. We had over 30 participants attend the afternoon festivities. Tami and I are compiling our notes and determining ways to enlarge alumni engagement efforts next year.

Strengthen Employee Engagement

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) continues to meet on a regular basis. I view the SLT as a way to develop IMSA's leadership capacity and usually lead a short session on "leadership matters." For this reason, I invited the SLT and Cabinet to participate in the Board retreat the afternoon of May 10. The participants were able to interact with Trustees and engage in discussions around key issues, short and long term, facing the Academy.

Advance Equity and Excellence

The Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center) conducted all day training with the Senior Leadership Team on April 30. The session outcomes were to articulate the partnership goals and activities with the MAP Center; how these will drive Equity and Excellence Planning, articulate the core components of the Equity and Excellence Model and Policy, as well as its connections to IMSA's Impact and Outcomes, Pillars, and Priority Outcomes, and produce indicators and focus priorities that define the critical constructs embedded in the Equity and Excellence Model and Policy in order to sustain safety and inclusion. One key activity of the day was a focused review of IMSA student perception data and disaggregated student enrollment in high level mathematics and science electives.

Develop our International Strategy

Establishment of The IMSA Global Enterprise

We expect to submit the Articles of Incorporation to the Secretary of State for the “IMSA Private” this week after securing the signatures of the founding board members. Next steps include establishing a Bank Account, and adopting by-laws.

International Strategy Working Groups

Rich Busby continues to meet with the IMSA cross-functional working groups to identify recommendations for next steps in developing our international strategic plan. Additionally, Mary Collins continues to work on completing the I-17 application to issue F-1 visas. While the application is straightforward, the Department of Homeland Security requires extensive supplemental information.

Rich Busby and Mary Collins met with the admissions team from the University of St. Francis to gain additional information on their international recruiting practices, application processes and how best to prepare for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on-site visit.

International Organizations

IMSA has recently joined the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. I plan on attending their annual conference in Nashville this July.

We also joined The Enrollment Management Association. Mary Collins attended a meeting they sponsored at the Latin School on April 22. This organization has conducted a number of studies concerning enrollment trends that should be valuable to our future planning.

International / Domestic Market Research

The domestic market research study, led by Kalix Marketing of Baltimore, MD, kicked off the study on March 27 with an on-campus discovery session including members of IMSA’s international strategy working group. Kalix has field tested a survey to be used in domestic and international communities. We expect results from the domestic survey in late summer and results from the international survey in the fall.

The IMSA Fund also engaged AltshulerStaats, LLC of Brookline, MA, to conduct primary research related to agency and boarding school leaders. This research commenced on March 28. The qualitative study is intended to provide clarification on the market for international high school students; specifically the process to recruit international students, high-level demand factors by market and expected trends, impressions of how a school with IMSA’s profile might compete with other boarding school options and what is needed to support international students once they matriculated. We will use the report of findings to triangulate the results from the Kalix Marketing study.

Innovation Campus, Phase 1

Change to IMSA Law

I worked closely with our general counsel and our government relations and elected officials to draft amendments to our law that would allow IMSA to engage in public private partnerships (P3) agreements. HB 2606 would have amended IMSA law by allowing the Board of Trustees to enter into public-private partnerships (P3) agreements with private entities for purposes relating to, or affecting education in the school. IMSA's priorities include replacing all current failing residential halls. P3 projects give IMSA tangible infrastructure choices to enact improvements now, not decades in the future. We were also seeking corresponding changes to the State's Procurement Code. I was in Springfield for the hearing, which was to be held on March 20. The bill was not called during committee.

Capital Bill Request

Recognizing that there may be a capital bill this year, we worked with our government relations and local representatives on a \$127M capital bill for replacement of our residence halls. This capital request will enable IMSA to replace the halls with a new hall to accommodate 800 students, and 50 educators for short term stays at the Academy while they receive training at IMSA. Letters from current students, the Chicago Tech Community, City of Aurora Mayor Irvin and from Board Chair Erin Roche on behalf of the Board of Trustees were sent to the Governor in support of our capital bill request.

Leadership Updates from Cabinet Members

Updates from several Cabinet members are attached.