



Independence

CHARTER SCHOOL

opening worlds of opportunity

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January 4, 2012

Dear ICS Community,

For the past ten years, Jurate Krokys has served as the leader of ICS, first as Founding Principal and now as CEO. She has directed the school from its beginnings, taking the risk to join with us before a school even existed and staying with us from that fledgling vision to the institution we are today – a strong and maturing leader of K-8 education in Philadelphia. Over the past ten years, she has been the keeper of the school's vision and a protector of its mission.

As with all things that grow, change must come. Today, I am announcing that next school year (academic year 2012-2013) will be Jurate's final year as CEO of ICS. This decision is the collaborative result of many months of discussion and conversation between Jurate and the Board. Through the 2012-2013 school year, Jurate will continue to serve as CEO, as she always has, leading the school, supporting the principals, teachers, students, parents, and larger community. In addition, we will be working together to set a strategic plan in motion that will carry the school forward and help us transition smoothly to a new leader.

Those who know and have worked with Jurate know that she is an extraordinarily hard worker, always ready to take on new challenges. Because of that quality, as well as the equally untiring work of so many in the ICS family, today we are a school that is able to envision the next phase of wonderful leadership that will take the school into a dynamic future. These ten years have also seen great changes at ICS. In that first year, we had students in only four grades; today we have 777 students in nine grades.

As we begin this process of change, I want to ask for your assistance. My first request is that you join us in recognizing Jurate's work. As we proceed over these coming 18 months, please join us in the celebration of her lasting contributions and the progress the school has achieved. If you would like to share your thoughts on her contribution, I encourage you to email me at: bot_president@icscharter.com.

In the coming year, I will also be asking for your help in the CEO search process. The board is preparing to select a national educational consultant to guide us through this process of strategic planning, CEO selection and smooth transition to a new leader. The Board of Trustees will be providing leadership throughout this process and I will send periodic updates on our progress, but it wouldn't be the ICS way without real input from families, teachers, students and community members. I hope you will be able to volunteer time to participate in this process or just send us your thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

Please join me in thanking Jurate for her incredible commitment and service to our school. Because of her we see a very bright future for ICS.

Sincerely,

Eli J. Lesser
President, Board of Trustees