

2014 Brought Expanded Professional Development, Important Legislation, Alternate Accreditation Progress

2014 was a year filled with expanding professional development conferences, important legislation that could positively impact KAIRS schools, meetings with legislators, and continued work on an alternate accreditation model.

As KAIRS enters its 44th year of serving its 143 member schools, it strives to provide representation and information for more than 21,000 families that represent more than 35,000 students. It also remains the largest nonpublic school organization in the state, with KAIRS schools employing almost 2,300 full time teachers.



Robert Enlow, president and CEO, Foundation for Educational Choice, shared school choice updates as Keynote speaker for the Annual Administrator's Meeting.

Professional Development Expansion

Over the past several years, KAIRS has had increased opportunities to provide professional development programs to teachers across the state. To best serve the needs of teachers and administrators, KAIRS leadership divided its conferences into three separate meetings, focusing on administrators, early childhood educators and K-12 teachers.

Annual Administrator's Meeting

The year began with the Administrator's meeting and featured the theme, "Education Policies in Kansas: Critical Issues for the Future." Keynote Robert Enlow, president and CEO, Foundation for Educational Choice, shared an update on school choice options in a number of different states.

A panel of administrative technology experts (Bob D'Andrea, St. Mary's, Salina; Jamie Finkeldei, Diocese of Wichita; Tom Davis, Wichita Collegiate and Michelle Bolin, The Independent School of Wichita) shared



Carianne Short (top right) and Dr. Marianne Gibbs (bottom right) brought their unique presentations and expertise to the KAIRS Early Childhood Education Workshop in March. Early education teachers from across the state attended the day-long event.

technology plans their schools had utilized to update their systems.

Early Childhood Educational Workshop

The third KAIRS Early Childhood Workshop was held on March 29 at Kansas Wesleyan University and drew more than 30 teachers from across the state.

The theme was "Nurturing Children for Life: Each Child, Unique from the Start."

The workshop featured Marianne Gibbs, Ed.D, president of Gibbs Consulting, and Carianne Short, ESSDACK consultant. Dr. Gibbs brought her creative presentation, which concentrated on physical development needed

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KAIRS Executive Committee 2014-2015

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to support communication skills including handwriting. Ms. Short focused on cognitive and literacy skills and later highlighted her passion for science.

K-12 Teacher's Conference

In response to our teachers' request, the K-12 conference was moved to June 6. The Conference, "Connecting with the iY/Millennial Generation" was held in Wichita at Friends University. Dr. Tim Elmore, president, Growing Leaders, returned to speak to more than 70 teachers, and to challenge and provide insights on ways to connect, teach and motivate this current generation of students. College credit hours were offered by Friends University.

Cody Whetstone, director, Smoky Valley Virtual Charter School, Vision_Tek Technology Center, Lindsborg, also presented

details and advantages of attending a virtual school.

School Choice Legislation Passed

One of the legislative issues in the Kansas House (bill 2506 – signed into legislation May 1, 2014) included tax credits for corporations to give money to provide scholarships for low-income students attending underperforming schools to attend private schools. Donations have to be given to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that would disperse the funds to schools/families that fit the criteria. The SGO must be independent of receiving schools and have its own 501c3 created.

Meeting with Legislators

KAIRS President Nick Compagnone, (Superintendent, Salina Catholic Diocese) travels throughout the state attending various



K-12 Teacher's Conference

Back by popular demand, Dr. Tim Elmore (right) spoke about the unique qualities of iY Millennials throughout the day at the KAIRS K-12 Teacher's Conference, held at Friends University in Wichita. Cody Whetstone (insert) presented advantages of attending a virtual school.

state-level committee meetings. In the spring he and other KAIRS administrators met with Kansas legislators Senator Steve Abrams and Representatives Peggy Mast and Steven Johnson concerning educational issues affecting KAIRS schools.

Nick plans to hold similar roundtable meetings with legisla-

tors and additional KAIRS administrators in the Northwestern and Southeastern areas of the state in 2015.

Alternate Accreditation Model

School accreditation has been an ongoing discussion for several years, with KAIRS at the forefront

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From the President

This year's annual KAIRS theme is "Inspired and Informed Leadership." There are so many theories of what makes a good leader. In fact, in the educational world, to become a building principal, department head, or superintendent, many have a degree in Educational Leadership.

In a book I recently read, "Redeeming Administration," the author Ann Garrido correlates leadership and administration: "Leadership tilts towards the creation of vision and policy. Administration tilts towards the execution and management of vision and policy. Leadership benefits from organizational skills using knowledge, and administration benefits from visionary spirit."

When KAIRS was first established, the predominate vision was an organization that advocated public policy for the cause of independent and religious schools represented in Kansas. KAIRS, as an organization, has expanded its vision of serving Pre K-12 independent and religious organizations. Here are some activities from this past year:

- KAIRS has joined other public policy groups in promoting school choice in Kansas. These advocacy groups have attended legislative hearings supporting bills in the legislature that supported school choice. This year, a Tax Credit Scholarship Bill was passed.
- School accreditation has been an ongoing discussion for several years now. KSDE is finalizing a new accreditation model, Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA). While KESA is designed for public school accreditation, the goal is to have a pathway for private schools to continue



their accreditation model through AdvancED. This progress has been accomplished through dialogue between KAIRS and KSDE.

- Professional learning opportunities, through a partnership with KSDE and KAIRS, have been made available by federal grants. KAIRS has sponsored several professional development opportunities including the following:
- *AdvancED Fall Conference:* KAIRS members were allowed free admission to the pre-conference sessions. These sessions focused on school improvement and the accreditation process, specifically for private schools. Fifty members attended the Wichita conference.
- *Early Learning Conference:* This was held at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. The conference attracted 30 participants in March from around the state. Issues related to early childhood, both in schools and day care centers, were explored.
- *Summer K-12 Teacher's Conference:* Dr. Tim Elmore (Growing Leaders, President) was invited to speak again, this time at Friends University in Wichita. The conference focused on the unique qualities of the "iY" generation of students, and also integrating technology in the classroom. More than 70 attended the event.

KAIRS is not only an advisory group for independent and religious schools, but also a support in providing professional development opportunities. It is our hope that KAIRS plays a vital role in supporting their vision and understanding of both their organization and of KAIRS.

"If we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us."

— Adlai E. Stevenson Jr.

— Nick Compagnone, Ph.D., KAIRS President

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of discussions regarding alternate accreditation for its member schools. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is finalizing a new accreditation model for schools, with the title, Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA).

As a result of numerous meetings between KAIRS and KSDE, there will be a pathway for private schools to continue their accreditation model through AdvancED. Details will be available in 2015.

Change in Executive Committee Membership

John Macy, Principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Marysville, has joined the Executive Committee as the Lutheran

School at-large member. He replaces Neil Kurtz who retired from Linn Lutheran last year.

National Blue Ribbon Award Given to St. Patrick Catholic School – Kingman

St. Patrick Catholic School in Kingman was selected as one of four Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performance Schools in Kansas. St. Patrick is the first school selected from the Wichita Diocese and the fifth private school in Kansas since the awards began in 1982.

St. Patrick Catholic School is located in Kingman, and has 171 students, pre-K through grade 8. Principal Bob Lyall was also named a Terrell H. Bell outstanding principal – the first private school principal in over five years to win the award. ■

KAIRS 2014 Distinguished Teachers



KAIRS recognized the 2014 Distinguished Teachers during the Annual Meeting's Hall of Fame Banquet. Winners were (from left) Maira Silva, Diocese of Wichita; Mark Hoduski, Christian Schools; Barbara Burcham, Independent Schools; Randolph Brull, Diocese of Salina; Missi Haskell, Diocese of Dodge City; Neal Kurtz, Lutheran Schools; Josh Peterson, Diocese of Salina. For additional information, visit www.kairs.org.

KAIRS Hall of Fame

KAIRS Hall of Fame (www.kairs.org) is where KAIRS honors its outstanding educators who have made life-long contributions to religious and independent schools in Kansas. These educators have given extraordinary service to a KAIRS member school (or a series of schools) during their career as educators. ■

KAIRS Hall of Fame Members

Founders:

Vincent DeCoursey (1917-1991)
Robert Eggold
James Thiessen

2005:

Bunny Hill

2006:

Karen Norton
Jean Ross

2007:

Edward Bierbaum

2010:

Keith Jopp

Suze Anne Norton

2013:

Larry Daugherty



Website Re-design

KAIRS launched its newly redesigned website in January 2015, designed by the Leo Johns Company.

REGISTER TODAY!

KAIRS Upcoming Professional Development Events

Early Childhood Conference:

Fostering Creativity Through Innovative Early Learning Environments

March 28, 9 am – 2:30 pm • Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina

Speakers:

Natalie Unruh, Instructor, Dept. of Teacher Education, Fort Hays State University

Sara Stroup, Instructor, Dept. of Teacher Education, Fort Hays State University



Natalie Unruh



Sara Stroup

Registration Now Open – Forms available at www.kairs.org

KAIRS K- 12 Teacher's Conference:

Creative, Purposeful Classroom Technology Integration

July 30-31

The Independent School of Wichita campus

Featured Speakers: Kevin Honeycutt & Curtis Chandler

Save the Date — Early Registration Opens March 1

For additional information and registration forms, go to www.kairs.org.

KAIRS Distinguished Teachers 2015

Christian Schools



Steve Gordon has been the outstanding director of bands and senior high vocal music instructor at Maranatha Academy in Shawnee since 1991. He has guided Maranatha bands to excellence at Carnegie Hall (New York), parades, formal concerts and jazz concerts throughout the Midwest.

Having more than 35 years of educational experience, Mr. Gordon has served in statewide representative and executive positions. He also founded the Great Plains Regional Honor Band and Choir for ACSI.

“Steve Gordon is both passionate and dedicated to Christian Education and has created a long history of distinction in our school’s performing arts program,” said Ron Fritz, Secondary Principal, Maranatha Academy.

Mr. Gordon holds a bachelor of Music Education (1979) and a master of Music Education (2004) – both from the University of Kansas.

Diocese of Dodge City



Marlene Clayton has been an inspirational sixth/seventh/eighth grade language arts, religion and homeroom teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School Ellinwood, and Lead Teacher for her building since 2003.

Mrs. Clayton is not only an outstanding teacher, but also a gifted administrator. She is noted as dealing with difficult situations with class, diligence and humor; tackling challenges in a direct, graceful manner. When their parish priest was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, Mrs. Clayton took on numerous duties while continuing to excel at her normal responsibilities.

“Marlene is an extremely compassionate, levelheaded, faith-filled woman. She seems to have *been made* to be a teacher, especially one in a school where faith is the central theme,” said Trina Delgado, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Dodge City.

Mrs. Clayton earned a B.S. degree (2001) from Newman University.

Independent Schools



Cindy Davis is an innovative third grade teacher at Wichita Collegiate School. Since 2011, she has skillfully balanced creativity and fun with academic rigor.

Mrs. Davis has also helped overhaul the third grade reading curriculum, trains teachers in the use of learning strategies and hosts a monthly teacher meeting on the use of new structures in their classrooms.

“Mrs. Davis’ warmth, willingness to help, and exemplary support of students, families, and staff make her a delightful person with which to work,” said Dr. Heather Eubank, Head of Lower School, Wichita Collegiate.

Mrs. Davis received a B.S. in Elementary Education (2004) from the University of Arkansas and her master’s degree in Education (2007) from Wichita State University.

Lutheran Schools



Orville Altevogt has been a devoted principal and teacher, of fifth through eighth grade, at St. John Lutheran in Alma since 1981. He excels in science and math instruction, equipping his students to excel – with a number of his students becoming valedictorians at the local high school.

“Mr. Altevogt attends to many details without the knowledge of staff, or board,” Rev. Robert Grimm, pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, said. “Many people have benefited from the unassuming, humble service he provides, just to get things done and to get them done well.”

Mr. Altevogt began his teaching and administrative career in 1971. He received his B.S. (1971) from Concordia University, Seward, NE. He also holds two M.S. degrees: from Ball State University, Muncie, IN (1979) and from Kansas State University (1992).

Diocese of Salina



Joseph Hertel has taught English with great skill for his entire 34-year teaching career, 25 years of which have been at Thomas More Prep-Marian (TMP-M) in Hays. His students reap the benefits with outstanding scores on the ACT, SAT and as scholarship essay winners.

Mr. Hertel has also served as a coach for football and basketball and is currently the boy’s basketball head coach. He has won two state championships during his TMP-M tenure.

“Joseph is an outstanding educator, and also devoted to his faith. His students greatly respect him for how much he has taught them,” said Kathy Taylor, principal, TMP-M.

Mr. Hertel received a B.S. in English/P.E. (1980) from St. Mary of the Plains College, Dodge City, and an M.S. in Secondary Counseling (1992) from Fort Hays State University.

Diocese of Wichita



Janine McGlachlin is a beloved second grade teacher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Wichita who is committed to developing the whole child. Her gentle demeanor captivates and engages her students.

On both spiritual and academic matters, Mrs. McGlachlin is a servant-leader. She serves as the chair of the school’s Liturgy/Spirituality Committee, and also is meticulous in researching new instructional materials.

“Mrs. McGlachlin helps all children experience success and acknowledges their individual strengths and areas to improve. She recognizes each child as a precious gift,” said David Charles, principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

Mrs. McGlachlin began her education career in 1988. She earned an associate degree (1985) from Hutchinson Community College and a B.S. in Education (1987) from Emporia State University. ■

Mission

Through its common commitment to quality education, KAIRS serves to unify its member schools while respecting their diversity. KAIRS provides a framework for communication and cooperation among independent and religious schools in the state of Kansas, preschool through college. In addition, KAIRS strives to maintain productive relationships with the Kansas State Board of Education, the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Board of Regents, the local, state, and federal governments, and other agencies that impact quality education.