

KAIRS

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

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KAIRS Year Highlighted by New Educational Programs and Members

In the election year of 2012, the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) saw the addition of new programs, established a new Executive Committee position, welcomed a new school to the organization and congratulated a new Superintendent of the Diocese of Dodge City.

KAIRS continued its work with the State of Kansas on alternate accreditation and its commitment to communicating upcoming educational issues to its members. KAIRS is the largest organization in Kansas to represent the independent and religious schools with close to 35,000 students in 140 Catholic, Christian, Lutheran, Seventh-day Adventist and Independent schools. This includes almost 2,300 full-time teachers and more than 21,000 families.

Professional Development Programs

This past year, KAIRS offered two new Professional Development programs for private school teachers in Kansas. The first group of sessions was held at the KAIRS Annual Meeting last February. Traditionally, the conference was primarily for administrative members of



Dana McMillan (above) and Jodi Case (upper right) provided helpful insights to preschool teachers at the KAIRS Early Childhood Education Workshop. David Warlick was the Keynote Speaker at the February Annual Meeting.



KAIRS, but the organization received Federal funds for Professional Development programs, which brought a new dimension to the meeting.

Teachers attended sessions that included Keynote David Warlick's address, *Cracking the 'Native' Informational Experience*, which addressed the rapidly changing learning environment for students. Other topics included Attention Deficit Hyper-

activity Disorder, Apple technology, Common Core strategies, brain research and integration of technology in the classroom.

An Early Childhood Education Workshop was KAIRS second Professional Development program. It was held in Topeka in June. The event, entitled, *Enhancing the Early Childhood Education Experience*, brought 33 preschool educators from across the state. Childhood

educators Dana McMillan and Jodi Case led the workshop, which provided current trends in early education and practical tools for preschool classrooms.

Early childhood workshops will be offered in the summer of 2013 and will again feature outstanding speakers.

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KAIRS Executive Committee 2012-2013

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Catholic Diocese of Salina

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Accreditation Update

The issue of Accreditation and KAIRS schools continues to slowly move forward. This past summer, KAIRS President, Dr. Nick Compagnone met with Dr. Nancy Bolz (Director of AdvancED Kansas) and Brad Neuenswander (Deputy Commissioner in the Division of Learning Services) of KSDE. They discussed the possibility of exploring a field study where KAIRS schools and AdvancED would work on aligning with proposed KSDE accreditation standards without compromising the member schools' missions. If successful, a model could be developed for KAIRS schools that are affiliated with AdvancED.

New Superintendent for Dodge City

Congratulations to Trina Delgado. In July 2013, she was appointed Superintendent for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, which covers the southwest quarter of the state. Trina, however, is not new to the diocese, as she has faithfully served as principal for two Garden City schools: St. Mary Catholic School since 1996 and St. Dominic Catholic School since 1998.

Trina is originally from Nebraska and in 1990 earned her bachelor of arts in elementary

education from Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. She was also awarded a master's degree in elementary administration from the same college in 1996.

She and her husband Dan moved to Garden City in 1993 when they were both hired to teach at Victor Ornelas Elementary School (USD 457). Trina taught in an English as a Second Language 5th grade classroom and Dan was the Physical Education teacher. Three years later, she was recruited to St. Mary's when the principal position became vacant.

Trina and Dan have four children and have been members of St. Dominic Parish since their move to Garden City.

Welcome Heritage Christian Academy

Heritage Christian Academy in Olathe and Overland Park, under the leadership of Superintendent Rick Lukianuk, was welcomed as the newest KAIRS member in 2012. Heritage Christian Academy opened its doors in August 2010. It was created by the joining of two established Christian Schools: Berean Christian School, which was founded in 1974, and Westminster Christian Academy, which began in 1996.

Heritage has two campus locations. The East Campus is located in Overland Park where the Pre-K and Elementary students attend. The West Campus is in Olathe and houses the junior and senior high schools.

The school is accredited by ACSI and is affiliated with Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA).

New Position Created on KAIRS Executive Committee

The new position of KAIRS Public Policy Liaison was filled in 2012 by Dr. Leo Pauls, Development Director for Emporia Christian School. Dr. Pauls comes to KAIRS with a wealth of expertise in working with political leaders at both the state and national levels. In his

former position as President of the National Teachers Hall of Fame, he lobbied in Congress in Washington, DC.

Dr. Pauls' career has been devoted to various aspects of education. He held several positions affiliated with Emporia State University including Executive Director of The Renaissance Group, Director of Reading Programs, Associate Chair of Teacher Education, and Executive Director for the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. Dr. Pauls and his wife Karen reside near Emporia.

In this new position, Dr. Pauls hopes to work with both the executive and legislative branches of Kansas on how KAIRS schools can be an integral part of the educational picture in the State. ■

KAIRS 2012 Distinguished Teachers



KAIRS recognized the 2012 Distinguished Teachers during the Annual Meeting's Hall of Fame Banquet. Winners were (from left): Martha Leaf, Independent Schools; Amanda Cook, Diocese of Salina; Stephanie Peck, Christian Schools; Rayanne Gartner, Lutheran Schools and Chris Van Sickel, Diocese of Wichita.

From the KAIRS President

KAIRS has added a new focus on Professional Development and is also finding ways of supporting classroom teachers as they face everyday challenges serving students in our independent and religious schools. For the second year, KAIRS is sponsoring an excellent Professional Development program at the annual meeting. The theme this year is "Classroom Connections." We also hosted our first Early Childhood Education Seminar in June. Preschool teachers from across Kansas attended. We will be presenting another seminar again next summer.



We are continuing our dialogue with State officials in regard to accreditation for our schools. For those attending the KAIRS annual meeting, Brad Neuenswander (KSDE) and Dr. Nancy Bolz (AdvancED) will discuss

progress on those accreditation issues. The dialogue will center on how AdvancED and KSDE hope to collaborate in the new accreditation model. We have two KAIRS schools that have volunteered to be field-tested schools.

We have also added Dr. Leo Pauls from Emporia Christian School to the KAIRS Executive Committee as the Public Policy Liaison. He has contacted the governor's office to open conversations with the executive branch on how independent and religious schools can impact the educational landscape in the State of Kansas. We will have our first meeting with the governor's staff in February 2013.

Every year at this time, we celebrate the excellence of KAIRS teachers and educators at our Hall of Fame Banquet. We are pleased to induct Dr. Larry Daugherty as our tenth member in the Hall of Fame, and we look forward to recognizing our Distinguished Teachers.

— Nick Compagnone, Ph.D., KAIRS President
KAIRS Schools: Good for Students, Families, and the State of Kansas

Hall of Fame Inducts Larry Daugherty as 10th Member

Dr. Daugherty will be installed as the tenth member of KAIRS Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame Banquet on Monday, February 4 in Topeka. The Hall of Fame was created in 2004 to honor our outstanding life-long educators in Kansas's independent and religious schools. The Hall resides on the KAIRS website, www.kairs.org. Dr. Daugherty retired from his position at Maranatha in 2012. Congratulations Dr. Daugherty.

Even as a teenager, Larry Daugherty had a strong inclination toward full-time Christian service. He knew he had a passion for sports, enjoyed coaching and liked working with students. He also developed a regular habit of relying on prayer and turning to God for answers to his questions.

This inner calling continued through his education at San Jose State University where he studied to become a physical education teacher and coach. Larry's academics were interrupted, however, as he proudly served in the United States Army as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam for five years.

Finding His Life's Work and Calling

He returned to San Jose State and completed his bachelor's degree (1972). His life's work became clear as he was introduced to Christian education for the first time. In 1972, Fremont Christian School (FCS), a fledgling Christian school at the time, in Fremont California, hired Larry and his wife Marilyn. He said he quickly knew that

Christian education was his call to service.

Larry began as the FCS Athletic Director, Boys Basketball Coach and Physical Education Teacher. The following year he was promoted to principal of the growing secondary school. From 1973 through 1979 Larry also became Assistant Superintendent of Development, and later served as Superintendent (1986-1994). Concurrently, he earned a master's degree in physical education from San Jose State (1979) and a doctorate of education in private school administration from the University of San Francisco in 1991.



Under Larry's guidance, FCS grew from 100 students to more than 1,100 in K-12. The school became accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), added a grade level each year until the high school was completed, increased the number of academically challenging courses, added a Development Office, and built new classrooms, a gym and athletic fields.

After more than 20 years at FCS, Larry was recruited across the country to become the Superintendent of Maranatha Academy. Maranatha was a church-sponsored school that was going through a challenging period. Larry, and his wife Marilyn, had the opportunity in the early years to help refocus the school and to solidify the school's spiritual and financial foundations.

A Call to Kansas

Among his many accomplishments in his 18 years of service (1994-2012) as Superintendent, Larry established a School Board, helped to successfully transition to an independent Christian school, purchased land for a campus that housed a newly created preschool and a much-needed gym, assisted in receiving accreditation through North Central Association and was instrumental in Maranatha becoming a full member of Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA).

Larry was also active in educational and civic organizations, particularly with the ACSI. He volunteered with KC House of Hope, Great Plains Alliance of Christian Schools, Interact and Veteran of Foreign Wars.

Throughout his career, Larry has remained committed to prayer and devoted to his Christian faith. He and his family continue to be active members of Antioch Church. Former students have praised him for his integrity, how he wisely and patiently helped settle challenging issues and that he always had a listening ear.

Larry and Marilyn reside in Shawnee, Kansas. They have one son, three daughters and three grandchildren. He is currently serving as the Interim Principal for Muncie Christian School. ■

KAIRS Hall of Fame

The KAIRS website (www.kairs.org) is also the location of the KAIRS Hall of Fame, 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. ■



Vincent DeCoursey



Robert Eggold



James Thiessen

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



Bunny Hill



Karen Norton



Jean Ross



Edward Bierbaum



Keith Jopp



Suze Anne Norton

KAIRS Distinguished Teachers 2013

Christian Schools



Beverly Lister has motivated students for 28 years as an outstanding music educator at Berean Academy in Elbing. She serves as the instrumental instructor for grades 5-12, teaches guitar and directs the Pep Band. The Fine Arts trophy case at Berean is filled with awards given to both her small and large ensembles.

A master teacher, Mrs. Lister is committed to helping her students pursue excellence. She is well respected on a statewide level as a music educator and often serves as a adjudicator at music festivals.

"Mrs. Lister truly believes that her class is as important as any other class and that her students are more well-rounded in their life and educational experience as a result of being involved in her program," Terry Tilson, Berean Superintendent said. "Additionally, she is a servant-leader who loves the Lord and serves others via the ministry of Christian education."

Mrs. Lister earned her bachelor's degree in Music Education from Friends University in 1977 and a Master of Music Education from Wichita University in 1986.

Diocese of Dodge City



Regina Victor is a devoted preschool teacher of 4-year-old children at St. Dominic Catholic School in Garden City. Since 2003, Mrs. Victor has brought creativity and outstanding preparation to her classroom. One of her unique instructional strategies utilizes artists Monet and Piet Mondrian to study primary colors and geometric shapes.

Mrs. Victor pays close attention to her students' developmental level and communicates about the children's activities regularly with their families. Her Catholic faith also motivates her to develop beyond the *whole* child towards a *holy* child.

"Teachers that teach in the grades directly above Mrs. Victor comment that it is quickly obvious which students have been in her class," said Trina Delgado, Superintendent, Dodge City Diocese and formerly Mrs. Victor's principal. "One teacher said that at the beginning of each year she goes to Mrs. Victor's room and simply says, 'Thank you.'"

Mrs. Victor began her career in education in 1987 after attaining her Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Hays University.

Independent Schools



Gary Buettgenbach has taught art with great creativity, wit and enthusiasm at Wichita Collegiate for 23 years. The sign on his door reads, "The Earth without ART is just Eh." Mr. Buettgenbach (Mr. B) teaches studio arts, video and photography. His video lab is a favorite largely because of the Video Magazine (VMag), where students chronicle the school year through video cameras. Mr. Buettgenbach has also been the Prom sponsor for 20 years.

"Gary Buettgenbach is one of those special teachers who has a positive impact on every student he comes into contact with," Chris Ashbrook, Upper School Head, Wichita Collegiate School, said. "Gary is an artist extraordinaire, and a teacher completely committed to his school. His greatest gift however, is his selflessness and ability to make students feel comfortable about themselves and confident enough to express their talents and feelings artistically."

Mr. Buettgenbach received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Education (1989), both from Wichita State University.

Lutheran Schools



Lorraine Thaete is a beloved first grade teacher at Christ Lutheran School in Overland Park. Since 2003, her devotion to her students has been obvious as she builds relationships based on love and trust. Mrs. Thaete's experience, which began in 1967, and on-going educational training make her a highly valued staff member, peer counselor

and mentor to younger teachers.

"As a new principal this past year, Mrs. Thaete has provided me with great input and insight during my transition. She connects with young people in a special way – building bridges to students' minds by studying their hearts," said Steve Vandemark, Principal, Christ Lutheran School. "Mrs. Thaete is an engaging and professional presence both in the building and in the hallways. Her calm demeanor, global perspective and positive presence are indispensable for our school."

Mrs. Thaete earned an Associate of Arts degree from Concordia Junior College (Nebraska) in 1965 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967 from Concordia Teachers College.

Diocese of Wichita



Dee Schwartz is a highly dedicated Lead Teacher who has served at St. Mary Parish Catholic School in Derby-Rose Hill since 1998. She divides her time between teaching Middle School science and fulfilling the responsibilities of being St. Mary's Lead Teacher.

As a science teacher, she has helped every student to meet or exceed the Kansas Science Assessment for the past five years. As the lead teacher, Mrs. Schwartz is indefatigable while she oversees all technology issues, standardized and state assessments, chairs the middle school and sits on the Principal's Advisory Committee.

"Mrs. Schwartz is hard working, positive, a problem solver, and, most of all, one of the most caring educators I have ever met," said Richard Montgomery, Principal, St. Mary Parish Catholic School, Derby-Rose Hill. "She doesn't just teach the Catholic faith, she joyfully lives it."

Mrs. Schwartz received an Associate of Arts degree from Allen County Community College in Iola (1977) and her BA in Education (1985) from St. Mary of the Plains in Dodge City.

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.