

KAIRS Today September 2011

Greetings to all KAIRS Schools!

This is the electronic newsletter of the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS). *KAIRS Today* is sent as a service to KAIRS members across Kansas. Each issue will also be available on the KAIRS web site at <http://www.kairs.org>.

Our goal is to keep you informed about legislative, regulatory and national news, and educational issues. Contact Corey Reese, editor, with questions or concerns – crkairs@yahoo.com.

From the Editor: We have just completed a wonderful year of celebrating our 40th Anniversary. A special thank you for our founders and past presidents for helping to make the Annual Meeting memorable.

As we begin the 41st year, accreditation continues to be an important issue for KAIRS. Please read about the latest developments.

Also – you might want to take a few minutes and nominate your Distinguished Teacher today. If you have a nominee for the Hall of Fame, it's a good idea to start that early as well. The forms are on the website – www.kairs.org.

We pray for a blessed and fulfilling year for all our members and their students.

SEPTEMBER KAIRS TODAY:

- 1. FROM KAIRS PRESIDENT, NICK COMPAGNONE - Accreditation and Tax Credits**
- 2. WELCOME NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR DODGE CITY**
- 3. DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AND HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS**
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FROM KAIRS PRESIDENT, NICK COMPAGNONE – Accreditation and Tax Credits

Greetings from KAIRS. We are looking forward to another strong year for KAIRS and its member schools. There are a number of important issues that are currently being addressed and I wanted to give you an update on the progress being made around the state. KAIRS will have strong interests in two particular issues – alternate accreditation and tax credits.

For the past several years accreditation has been one of the leading issues for KAIRS. As you might remember, I was invited to speak to the Board of Education on this issue last year, and Dr. Nancy Bolz, Director, AdvancED Kansas, and I met with Dr. Diane DeBacker, Kansas Commissioner of Education, in the spring. In those meetings, we discussed alternate accreditation models and AdvancED in particular. Both of those meetings were positive, but nothing concrete was decided at that time.

This year, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), under the QPA Advisory Council, is charged with reviewing QPA and providing input and recommendations for

the KSDE staff. They will, in turn, make recommendations to the state board of Education. I was asked to join that conversation. The first meeting for the new school year was held in September. Most of the meeting, which was largely informational, we discussed what accreditation should look like in the future – for all schools. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation will be phased out in 2014, which will likely mean a change in educational requirements. Under the influence of the Race to the Top (RTTT) and other programs, we are already seeing a shift from concentrating on student performance as a group, to growth performance of the individual student.

Also at the QPA Advisory Council meeting, Nancy Bolz gave an excellent presentation on the merits of the AdvancED model for the state. It was well received, but at this time was no mention as to how this might affect private schools. As the council moves forward, I will keep you informed on its progress. You can read more about it on the Kansas State Department of Education website, <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1696>.

It is a goal to also return to the Kansas Board of Education to update them on alternate accreditation for KAIRS schools.

Tax credits are another “hot” topic this year. It has been a record year of initiatives for tax credit legislation in a number of states. Oklahoma and Indiana’s new laws have included tax credit options, and at the upcoming KAIRS Executive Committee Meeting on October 3, we will be discussing the possibility of inviting representatives from those states to speak to us at our next Annual Meeting.

CAPE has an excellent article on this issue in its September *CAPE outlook* electronic newsletter. <http://www.capenet.org/pdf/Outlook367.pdf>

There are also the important issues including the implementation of core curriculum standards and teacher licensure that are garnering much discussion, but I will save those for a later date.

As you can see, important issues are being discussed throughout our state. Please join us as we consider many of these topics at the KAIRS Executive Committee meetings throughout the year, and at our Annual Meeting. We welcome all members to participate either in person or via the Internet.

WELCOME NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR DODGE CITY

KAIRS also extends its welcome to Randall (Randy) Steinle as the new Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Dodge City. Most recently, Randy served for nine years as the Superintendent of Schools in Lakin. He also has more than 30 years experience in education as a teacher and a coach in Grand Island, Nebraska, Salina, Great Bend High School and Harrison Junior High School, also in Great Bend and principal in Leoti. Randy holds a master’s degree in physical education and education from Kearney State College in Nebraska.

In addition to his position with the Diocese of Dodge City, Randy is an adjustor for Farmers Mutual Hail. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married for 36 years, and live in Lakin. They have three adult children: Dustin 33, Danica 31 and Kyree 26.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AND HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS REMINDER

It is not too early to be selecting your nominees for the KAIRS 2012 Distinguished Teachers and Hall of Fame inductees. This is one of the highlights of our year, so please submit your nominees before the dates listed below.

November 11: ACSI and Independent school's nominations due to Shelli Kadel.
November 11: Hall of Fame nominees due to Shelli Kadel.

December 2: Catholic and Lutheran Schools finalist names due to Shelli Kadel (kadelshelli@juno.com).

(Nominations from Catholic Diocese and Lutheran schools go directly to the appropriate Superintendents or Executive Director.)

Please return the nomination form, which are located on our website www.kairs.org to:

Shelli Kadel, Head of School, Wichita Friends School
14700 W. Kellogg, Wichita, KS 67235 316.729.0303
kadelshelli@juno.com

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

KAIRS would like to congratulate the Wichita Friends School for completing the rigorous process and becoming accredited by NCA/AdvancED.

Congratulations also to KAIRS Treasurer, Jamie Finkeldei, who is now the Director of Student Services for the Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

If your schools or your principals have received awards, please forward them to the editor of *KAIRS Today*, Corey Reese. We are always looking for opportunities to say, "Well done!"

VISIT THE KAIRS WEBSITE

Please take a few minutes to see the updates on the KAIRS website, www.kairs.org. We have posted an excellent CAPE video on the benefits of a private education. The 2011 Hall of Fame and Distinguished Teachers recipients have been updated.

IMPORTANT 2011-12 DATES

October 3, 10 am: Executive Committee Meeting, All KAIRS Members are welcome to join in person or via Internet

KAIRS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2011 - 2012

President: Nick Compagnone, Salina Catholic Diocese Superintendent
nickcom@aol.com

Vice President: Terry Tilson, Head of School, Berean Academy
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Treasurer: Jamie Finkeldei, Director of Student Services, Catholic Diocese of Wichita
and Principal, Resurrection Catholic School, Wichita
finkeldej@catholicdioceseofwichita.org

Michelle Bolin, Communications Director, The Independent School, Wichita
Michelle.Bolin@TheIndependentSchool.com

Annual Meeting Secretary: Shelli Kadel, Head of School, Wichita Friends School
kadelshelli@juno.com

Member-at-Large, Lutheran Representative: Neal Kurtz, Principal,
Linn Lutheran School, linnluth@bluevalley.net

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