

THE COMMISSION CONNECTION

November 2018

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR



The Illinois State Charter School Commission wishes to thank Hosanna Mahaley, for her years of service as Executive Director of the Commission where she was responsible for the professional oversight of all Commission related functions. Her experience of 20 years of executive leadership in leading efforts to promote student achievement with extensive experience in urban public school districts has been invaluable to the Commission. Good luck and best wishes to Hosanna on her future endeavors.

LEAD THE WAY

I am excited and honored to enter my fourth year with the Illinois State Charter School Commission as its new Executive Director. It has been a privilege to engage and support the work of the Commission schools to ensure Illinois students have **access** to high quality schools and rigorous academic experiences. As a statewide authorizer, the Commission the tenets of charter school **autonomy** and **accountability**.

In the last three years, the Commission's portfolio of schools has grown to nine serving more than 4,000 students statewide. Hats off to Southland College Prep, Prairie Crossing and HSA-McKinley Park for being among the Commission's highest performing schools and exceeding the state average by more than 10%!

In addition to the portfolio, Commission staff has grown, with the newest member of the team, Robbie Curry joining to serve as the Director of Portfolio Performance. Robbie is a former charter school principal and special education teacher; and his depth of expertise in developing and evaluating rigorous instruction practices will help elevate performance across the portfolio.

Last month, Commission staff attended the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NASCA) conference, which was themed **Expect More**. The conference keynote, Sekou Andrews, Spoken Word Artist and former middle school teacher challenged authorizers from around the country, to "make waves," and as a collective to expect more. Children expect more from teachers, teachers expect more from students, and charter schools expect more from authorizers. At the upcoming Commission Collaborative on Wednesday, November 14th, schools will be asked to complete a survey that will include the question: What do you expect from the Commission as an authorizer? I hope you will take time to provide thoughtful responses.

Thank you for all the phone calls and emails of support and encouragement. I am looking forward to working with you all in the upcoming weeks and months. #ExpectMore

Shenita Johnson
Executive Director, General Counsel
Illinois State Charter School Commission

KUDOS CORNER



Congratulations to Southland College Prep for earning "Exemplary" on the 2017-18 Summative Designation.

Compliments to both HSA-McKinley Park and Prairie Crossing Charter School for exceeding the 2017-18 state average on PARCC Proficiency.



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Committee Meetings

Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Operations | 1:30PM
Schools | 4:00PM
160 North LaSalle Street, Room 502
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Commission Collaborative

Hillside Public Library
405 N. Hillside Avenue
Hillside, Illinois 60162
10:30AM - 3:30PM

Topics: ESSA Site Based Expenditure Reporting & Student Discipline
Click [here](#) to view flyer.



Thursday, November 15, 2018
Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) Conference
Click [here](#) for more information.

IN THE NEWS





Southland College Prep, Lincoln-Way high schools get top ...

Graduation is the norm rather than the exception at Southland College Preparatory High School in Richton Park.

[Read more](#)

www.chicagotribune.com



'A big idea that became a reality': Elgin charter school ...

It was one year ago Wednesday that organizers of a proposed charter school in Elgin received the charter that allowed it to open in 2018. On Wednesday, leaders of the Elgin Math and Science Academy thanked those who made it possible - local...

[Read more](#)

www.chicagotribune.com



South suburban volleyball coach impresses judges on 'The ...

After appearing on the television talent show "The Voice," Melinda Bussie of Matteson said strangers are recognizing her around town. "I can't hide with my big hair," she said. Going by the stage name Sandy Redd Bussie during an aired audition...

[Read more](#)

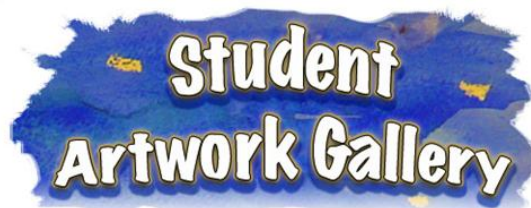
www.chicagotribune.com

ON THE MOVE



Effective October 30, the Commission office has located to the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph, 4th floor, Chicago.

Help us decorate our new space!
We want to showcase student artwork by decorating our halls and walls. Upload 4 or 5 pieces to SCSC.Commissionschools@illinois.gov by November 27th. Remember to include name of school, student's name and grade level.



ISBE INFORMATION



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Message from State Superintendent Tony Smith, click [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers is looking to hire a staff accountant. Click [here](#) to download

EXPECT MORE CONFERENCE

Commissioners and Commission Staff joined other Charter School Authorizers at the 2018 NACSA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. It was a great opportunity to learn, network and share best practices.



STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Illinois State Charter School Commission
100 West Randolph, S4-300
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-814-1258

SCSC.CommissionSchools@illinois.gov

DeRonda Williams, Commission Chair

Dr. Catherine Burns, Vice Chair

Bill Farmer, Secretary

Melissa Connelly

David Feinberg

Carlos Perez

Troy Ratliff

Lisa Schuchart

Richard Van Evera

**VISIT THE COMMISSION WEBSITE BY CLICKING
HERE**