

April 29, 2021

Dear alumnae,

With the recent announcement of NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl's new role as Executive Director of the Sisters of Notre Dame National Sponsorship and Network Office, Notre Dame Academy's Board of Directors has begun the process of searching for NDA's next president. In order to provide adequate time for a successful search, NDA's Board of Directors has made the decision to move forward with an interim president for the 2021-22 school year. The Board of Directors is happy to announce that NDA's current principal, Mr. Jack VonHandorf, has graciously agreed to serve as interim president for the upcoming academic year. The Sisters of Notre Dame have approved his appointment which will be effective August 15, 2021. We have every confidence that Mr. VonHandorf, along with NDA's administrative leadership team, will effectively manage operations at Notre Dame Academy until a new president is named.

The Board of Directors is immediately moving forward with the search for a permanent president of NDA who will assume the position of president sometime prior to July 2022. We recognize that the selection of the new president is one of the most important responsibilities of the Board of Directors. We realize that, in order to continue the outstanding work that Dr. Koehl has accomplished, we will need to search for an exceptional individual who is passionate about our mission and shares a love for our students.

The first action in the process was to identify and engage a search firm to assist us in this all-important task. We have selected Educational Directions of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, as our partner. Educational Directions was founded in 1987 and is a highly respected national firm. The search will be led by Mathew Heersche and Risa Oganessoff Heersche. Mr. Heersche and Mrs. Oganessoff Heersche are both leaders in Catholic education and as search professionals they bring deep experience, expertise and enthusiasm to our presidential search process. In addition, they have assisted a number of Sisters of Notre Dame educational institutions in the search for new leadership and are very familiar with the Sisters' charism, governance and leadership structures.

The Notre Dame Academy Board of Directors has established a President Search Committee composed of representation from the Sisters of Notre Dame, NDA Board of Directors, faculty, staff and administration. Additionally, the Board of Directors has invited Mr. Heersche and Mrs. Oganessoff Heersche to visit Notre Dame Academy the first week in May to interview members of all stakeholder groups within the school (students, faculty/staff, parents, administrators, alumnae, board members).

NDA alumnae are invited to participate in a virtual input session with the presidential search firm on Tuesday, May 4 at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in attending this virtual alumnae information session, please contact Mrs. Leanne Kirn at kirnl@ndapandas.org.

We look forward to the search process and will keep all members of our school community informed as to its progress via regular updates and all information pertaining to the search will be posted on the president search page on our website.

Sincerely,

Amy Quinn Dye
Notre Dame Academy Board Chair
Presidential Search Committee Member

Jeanne-Marie Tapke
Notre Dame Academy Board Member
Chair of the Presidential Search Committee