



Dear Hawken Community:

After a nationwide search that yielded exceptional candidates, I am happy to announce that Doris Korda has been selected as Hawken's new Assistant Head of School, effective July 11, 2011. In that role, Doris will serve on the senior leadership team, advise and represent the Head of School, oversee the coordination and alignment of the curriculum, facilitate diversity and inclusion work, manage the professional development process and budget, coordinate faculty evaluation and recruitment, and fulfill additional duties to ensure program consistency and mission alignment.

Doris comes to Hawken from Columbus Academy, a K-12 day school in Columbus that enrolls 1070 students, where she currently serves as chairman of the Math Department. A graduate of the Columbus School for Girls, Doris received her Bachelor's degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from The Ohio State University, and will complete her Master's degree in Independent School Leadership from Columbia University Teachers College this May.

Doris began her career in the business world working for AT&T as a marketing manager and then moved to Sterling Commerce, where she rose to the positions of Vice President and General Manager, and Vice President for Business Development and Strategic Planning. Fourteen years ago, Doris pursued her passion for independent school education by joining the faculty at Columbus Academy as a math teacher. In addition to her duties teaching math, Doris developed new and innovative curriculum, supervised the math department, and created and implemented school-wide programs and initiatives to help transition new students into the school and to address issues related to diversity, student advising, faculty evaluation, and gender.

As part of the search process, Assistant Director of the Middle School Jen Halliday and Director of Admission Heather Daly joined me for a full day site visit to Columbus Academy to interview Doris' teaching colleagues, the administration, her students, parents, and members of the Board. The admiration, loyalty and affection expressed for Doris were universal, consistent and effusive. Everyone we spoke with praised her strategic and visionary mind, her collaboration and team building skills, her high energy and good humor, and her passionate dedication and intense loyalty to students and colleagues. Assistant Head and Lower School Director Dan Vorenberg at Columbus Academy offered insight into Doris' strengths, noting, "She is a very sophisticated thinker and she approaches each curricular discussion with sensitivity to the developmental needs of students while anticipating the disequilibrium caused by intellectual and pedagogical change. Her energy, humor and intelligence naturally bring others to consensus."

Many thanks to Search Committee Chair Jen Halliday and the following members of the search advisory committee for the thoughtful time they devoted to our search: Monique DeVane, Dave Gillespie, Sandy Kahn, and Dorothy Moulthrop. Their efforts ensured a great match for Hawken, and we feel fortunate to be gaining such an esteemed, competent, and compassionate colleague whose passion for education and ability to lead people is exceptional. As one of her Columbus Academy colleagues noted, “She is loved by faculty, students and parents and it is for these very reasons that I offer my full support. The school that hires Doris will move forward, I am sure, with vigor.”

Sincerely,

D. Scott Looney
Head of School