The numerous accomplishments of the Class of 2014 are too vast for listing individually. The following snapshot of this past year (as of May 7, 2014) does capture many of our Seniors’ remarkable achievements. Other well-deserving students were awarded honors and recognitions from a wide array of institutions that represent local, state and national organizations in the arts, humanities, athletics, mathematics and science.

National Advanced Placement Scholars: Matthew Deng, Emily Ling

Advanced Placement Scholars With Distinction: Ashok Arjunakani, Ryan Chiu, John Deng, Matthew Deng, Kent Gang, Siva Gangavarapu, Kevin He, Vandana Karan, Arthur Li, Xiaoyue Li, Emily Ling, Jenson Phung, Sagar Punhani, Sreyesh Satpathy, Vrign Socrates, Brennan Wakey, Johnny Wu

Advanced Placement Scholars With Honors: Prachi Aggarwal, Lael Costa, Vishrut Dixit, Shivani Goel, Youcef Hadjarab, Taylor Herr, Anton Karpovich, Andrew Kuznetsov, Evan Li, Kevin Li, Andrew Liang, James Tao, Tony Vadakunchery, Mateusz Wojtaszek

National Achievement Finalists: Isiah Butler, Joseph Donermevry, Ciara Wardlow

National Merit Finalists: 41 seniors

American Invitational Mathematics Examination: 13 seniors qualified

International Math Olympiad Gold Medal Winner: James Tao

Harvard/MIT Invitational Math Tournament: 4th in Nation - James Tao

High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling (HiMCM): Selected for Finalist Team – Advitheey Chelikani, Sagar Punhani

Mathematics Team: 2nd in State · Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) Contest:
- Advith Chelikani, Kevin He, Taylor Herr, Saurabh Kumar, Evan Li, Sagar Punhani, Abhishek Sethi

Illinois Junior Academy of Science Gold Medal Winners: Ashok Arjunakani, Philip Nebres

Scholastic Bowl Team: 1st in State · National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) Championship, IHSA State Championship, Masonic State Championship · Siva Gangavarapu, Anton Karpovich

Science Olympiad Team: 7th in State · Lael Costa, Annika Gomez, Jacob Kronenberg, Sagar Punhani, Abhishek Sethi

Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology Semifinalists: Srishti Kotlo, Lakhena Leang, Xueyang Ren, Sreyesh Satpathy

TEAMS - Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science Competition: 1st in State · Ethan Bian, Mohammed Kady

History Bowl Team: National Semifinalist, 1st in State · Anton Karpovich

NASA Exploration Design Challenge: Member of Top Five Finalist Team · Claire Hensley

National History Bee: 2nd in State · Anton Karpovich

US Geography Olympiad National Champion: Anton Karpovich

Illinois Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference:
- 1st Place, Business Communications · Gina Liu
- 1st Place, Insurance and Risk Management · Joseph Weinrich

Illinois Future Problem Solving Competition: 2nd Place Written Competition · Kent Gang, Woohyun Shin, Luke Zhan, Amy Zhu

Illinois High School Association (IHSA): 1st in State, Steven Tan · 100 Butterfly, 2nd in State, 100 Backstroke

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Solo Ensemble Contest: 2nd Place · Piano, Jeremy Tyszkievicz

Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All-State Competition & Festival:
Selected for Membership in All-State Honors Orchestra · Isheng Hou, Jenson Phung

John H. McEachern, Jr. Exemplary Service Travel Scholarship Recipients: Michele Kinana, Yvette Ramirez

Knight Family IMSA Scholarship Winner: Lia Vallina

IMSA believes that belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good. The class of 2014 demonstrated their commitment to common good by completing more than 65,600 hours of service learning in a variety of ways: tutoring, mentoring, teaching, volunteering in medical centers, senior citizen, youth centers, and food pantries, through the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Exodus, Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos, ALS Association, schools, libraries, and museums. Two hundred hours of service learning are required for graduation.

Special recognition to students who completed more than 750 hours: Alexis Currie- 1,380 hours, Brianna Pusey- 1230 hours, Nahee Park- 1010 hours, Dallas Eckman- 945 hours, Erma Mladenova- 937 hours, Jacob Akstins- 897 hours, Kevin Li- 840 hours, Anne Weitekamp- 798 hours, Lynette To- 785 hours, and Kayla Ingram- 777 hours.
The World Has Taken Notice of IMSA's Achievements

This year, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) continued to demonstrate leadership in STEM teaching, learning and talent development throughout Illinois and around the world. This graduating class and all of our students also distinguished themselves in true IMSA fashion. An IMSA student won gold at the International Math Olympiad and another won first place in the U.S. Geography Olympiad. Students also won state championships in History, Speech, Academic Quiz, and Swimming.

An IMSA team of students was selected as finalists in the NASA Exploration Design Challenge (ECD) where they were asked to design shielding to protect a radiation detector on the upcoming Orion un-crewed mission. A student had a paper published in the Singapore International Science Competition (SISC) and presented the results. IMSA students won more gold medals that any other high school in the nation in the National Russian Essay Contest.

IMSA's leadership in entrepreneurship garnered a $1 million gift by alumnus Steven Chen for a new Innovation Lab that when built will be 6,400 square feet featuring an open space design concept. The new space will be modeled in part after the highly successful digital co-op, 1871, in Chicago.

IMSA took a lead role in a groundbreaking research study, which examines the intermediate-term outcomes of STEM specialty schools for talented learners. The study, funded by the National Science Foundation and conducted by the American Psychological Association and the University of Virginia, produced some results that affirm IMSA's ability to incubate students' interest in STEM.

CoolHub introduced its Mentor Matching Engine (MME), further customizing the web application adding a structure of supervised collaboration. Another partner emerged in the Illinois Science and Technology Institute (ISTI) who has chosen CoolHub as the platform for the e-mentorship initiative of the State's R&D STEM Learning Exchange.

In the workforce, IMSA alumni use their scientific minds to creatively solve global issues and advance the human condition. They are doctors leading breakthroughs in neurological disorders and cancer treatments. They are scientists at national laboratories. They are leaders in education at Harvard, MIT, the University of Illinois and other prestigious universities. They are technology experts at Facebook, Google, and Microsoft. They are business leaders and engineers at the Boeing Company, McDonald's Corporation, Motorola, the New York Stock Exchange, Nissan, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and Shell Oil. They are entrepreneurs and co-founders of Netscape, PayPal,Yelp, and YouTube.

In 2013-14, Professional Field Services (PFS) continues to build programming and community capacity through field offices and online offerings. Serving thousands of students, teachers and other educators, PFS provides dozens of offerings advancing STEM education throughout Illinois and the world. This year PFS introduced the RISE (Research, Inquiry Skills & Experimentation) online course. RISE students have the opportunity to present their research findings at regional, state and national venues. This year, they received many honors for their research; two advanced to the national stage through invitations to the 2014 Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) National Symposium in Washington DC and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Propulsion Energy Forum 2014.

In the media, IMSA achieved great recognition for its programs with a comprehensive article in Education Week “STEM Academy’s Reach Spans Illinois,” and a feature story in Wired magazine “Hogwarts for Hackers.”

This year, the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, due to the generosity of alumni, parents, friends, corporate and foundation partners, has reached an all-time giving record of $2.3 million in gifts and pledges. In addition, the participation rate of giving by alumni, parents, and employees also reached all-time records. Finally, the IMSA Fund Board of Directors tripled in size to almost 30 distinguished members representing diverse facets of the business and philanthropic community.

Historical Fast Facts:

- IMSA was named the winner of the prestigious Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator Award in 2009.
- The Wall Street Journal named IMSA among the top 40 public and private college preparatory institutions in the world for placing graduates in the U.S. Ivy League and highly selective colleges and universities.
- IMSA alumni receive numerous academic, research and leadership awards, including Fulbright, Marshall, National Science Foundation, Rhodes, Truman and Siebel Scholarships.
- Educators visit from many countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Russia, Mexico, Germany, Taiwan and Thailand.