Formerly known as IMSA Excellence 2000+ (E2K+), IMSA’s award-winning teacher professional development and after-school enrichment program for Illinois students in 4th-8th grade is celebrating 10 years of existence, with a new name! This article is a review of the origin of the program and recent changes to the program since its inception 10 years ago. Here are the highlights...

- **2000-2001**: IMSA E2K+ began in the 2000-2001 academic year with seven pilot sites throughout the state. The original IMSA E2K+ program was modeled, in part, after the highly successful Mitchell Excellence 2000 program for students in Israel.

The genesis of the IMSA E2K+ program was described as follows, by the Israel-based Excellence 2000 program: "IMSA E2K+ was started at the request of the Illinois General Assembly, with strong bipartisan legislative support. IMSA E2K+ is derived from the Excellence 2000 after-school enrichment program in Israel, operated by the Israel Center for Excellence through Education (ICEE), the organization that operates the Israel Arts and Science Academy (IASA), a "sister school" of IMSA. Additional Excellence 2000 programs operate in eleven States across the United States, Singapore and India."

- **2009**: Jami Breslin becomes the new Program Director as the former director, Susan Bisinger moves into the Director of Statewide Educator Initiatives position at IMSA.

- **2009-2010**: After ten incredible years of growth, made possible by the State of Illinois and private sector donors, the program continues to evolve. Fueled by growth and the development of a unique and mature curriculum and new professional development programming, IMSA E2K+ officially rebrands the program with a new name, new tagline and new logo: IMSA FUSION: Igniting Teaching and Learning

- **2010-2011**: IMSA FUSION serves 82 programs in nearly 70 upper elementary and middle schools in Illinois, reaching nearly 200 teachers and 2,000 students throughout the state. IMSA FUSION is recognized (for a second time) as one of the nation’s top, K12 STEM Education Programs by the Bayer Corporation.

- **2011-2012**: IMSA FUSION received funding from the McGowan Foundation to serve 4 East Aurora middle schools. IMSA FUSION will serve over 100 programs in nearly 84 Illinois schools in the coming academic year.

- **Moving forward**: A new decade for IMSA FUSION will keep us true to the goals of the program, and will further tie evaluation to those goals to measure how the program impacts both teachers and students. We will continue to serve a target population of under-resourced and underserved schools.

Sincerely,
THE IMSA FUSION TEAM

*Please visit our website for current IMSA FUSION information [http://www3.imsa.edu/programs/fusion]*