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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Independence Mission Schools Announces Search for CEO to Lead Continued Growth and Success**

**Philadelphia, PA (December 12, 2016)** – [Independence Mission Schools \(IMS\)](http://independencemissionschools.org), a Philadelphia-based non-profit that provides transformative Catholic education to low-income students of all faiths, today announced its search for a CEO to lead the organization and build on its success in providing high-quality, cost-effective schooling to children across the city. The newly-established CEO position is part of a leadership transition intended to ensure that IMS is well-positioned to become a national model for urban education while continuing to best serve its students and the surrounding community.

As part of the leadership transition, Anne McGoldrick, who initially joined IMS as CFO and now serves as President, will be leaving the organization at the end of 2017. Her leadership of IMS through its creation, development and expansion over the past four years has contributed significantly to its impressive achievements. Since 2012, IMS has grown enrollment by more than 1,000 students, increased scholarship funds in its schools from \$2 million to \$8 million and lowered family-paid tuition to make school choice a possibility for families throughout Philadelphia. Notably, after a \$5 million renovation, St. Malachy, an IMS school, opened in a new location in 2016. The state-of-the-art facility will serve as a community hub, providing neighborhood access to a community center, a 378-seat performing arts auditorium, playing fields and outdoor space. McGoldrick, who previously worked at a private equity firm, was brought on to help IMS navigate its startup phase and expects to rejoin the private sector at the completion of the transition.

“We are deeply grateful for Anne’s unmatched leadership and thank her for her generous service to IMS,” said Brian McElwee, chair of the IMS Board. “As we move forward in advancing the vision of our great organization, the new CEO will influence and implement the Board’s strategic plan, direct increased investment in our schools and work with partners locally and nationally to continue to develop the potential and sustainability of the IMS network. This person will also lead the improvement and expansion of our unique model in an effort to transform as many young lives and communities as possible.”

Dr. Mary McDonald, the founder of MCD Partners and an IMS board member since its founding, will be leading the CEO search and leadership transition efforts on behalf of the Board. Dr. McDonald is widely known as the architect of the Jubilee Schools in Memphis, where she served as the Superintendent of Education to re-open 10 urban Catholic schools and was largely responsible for building the strong

foundation on which they thrive today. McGoldrick will continue in her role as President through the transition, working alongside Dr. McDonald to ensure that the process runs smoothly.

“I am incredibly honored to have been a part of such an important and needed educational movement in the city of Philadelphia,” said McGoldrick. “The immense progress that IMS has made over the past four years could not have been possible without the remarkable support of our Board, staff, donors and partners. I am confident that the success of our model will allow us to attract a qualified, passionate leader to run this organization – someone who will build upon all that we have already accomplished. I look forward to witnessing the continued growth of the IMS network for many years to come.”

Established in 2012, IMS has engineered a dramatic turnaround for its network of 15 schools, many of which were slated for closure. In just four short years, the schools have revitalized their operations and have seen a 24 percent enrollment increase, created and sustained nearly 500 education-related jobs and invested in a brighter future through increased support and better academic outcomes for nearly 5,000 children and families across Philadelphia.

### **About Independence Mission Schools**

Independence Mission Schools is a non-profit organization providing transformative Catholic education to elementary-age students of all faiths from low-income communities in Philadelphia. Founded in 2012, the IMS network of 15 independent, tuition-assisted schools serves nearly 5,000 inner-city students offering an affordable and innovative academic curriculum in the Catholic tradition of service to underserved communities. For more information about Independence Mission Schools visit [www.independencemissionschools.org](http://www.independencemissionschools.org).

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