



## Testimonials from 2020-21 New Heads Network Participants

I took on my first headship role just as the academic year was starting in the fall of 2019, and I happened to see a notice regarding the New Heads Network. I contacted ISACS and was able to join the program, beginning with the first session. It has been by far the best professional development experience for me as a new head. When the pandemic impacted the spring of the 2019-2020 school year, ISACS offered new heads the opportunity to extend membership in the New Heads Network, and I signed up once again without hesitation. The program is well tailored to the busy pace of day-to-day headship duties and yet provides an important retreat-style environment for discussion and reflection on key issues of leadership. Just as independent schools are diverse in nature, so too are the cohort of new heads, and it is a pleasure to learn from the rich experience of others, alongside gaining a wealth of wisdom and expertise derived from the facilitation of Mary Menacho, Lou Salza, and Donna Harris.

*Jeremy Robbins, Head of School, Brehm Preparatory School (IL)*

New to ISACS, in my second year of my second headship, I am so grateful that I joined the ISACS New Heads Network! The opportunity to join a cohort of heads with diverse backgrounds and experiences and to have monthly 1:1 coaching sessions has been tremendously valuable. The relevant, timely topics and shared wisdom provided both inspiration and tangible takeaways that moved me forward in my own leadership journey.

I participated in the NAIS Institute for New Heads just prior to starting my first headship, which was incredibly helpful. However, I am certain there were things I just wasn't ready to absorb, so they didn't stick. This year, the New Heads Network served as reinforcement through what turned out to be a spiral learning experience for me. I feel very comfortable reaching out to the heads in my cohort and the entire ISACS team and highly recommend the New Heads Network to any head new to ISACS!

*Nancy Lang, Head of School, The New School (AR)*

The New Heads Network was an invaluable resource during my year of interim headship. When I logged in each month, I felt myself breathe a bit easier because I knew that the people there would understand how I was feeling and all of the balls I was trying to keep in the air. Even over Zoom, Mary and Lou cultivated a warm and supportive environment. I appreciated the space they created for participants to ask questions freely and to connect and share ideas with one another. The content of the meetings was timely, relevant, and immediately useful in my daily work with teachers, trustees, and parents. Coaching with Mary has been a highlight of my tenure as interim head. Her focused support, thoughtfulness, and attention to the complexities of this role helped me to navigate the challenges and successes of this year with a clear vision and purpose. Participating in this program was tremendously beneficial and I would recommend it to all interim new heads as they work to navigate this complex role in such an unusual time.

*Rachel Goldberg, Interim Head of School, Summers Knoll School (MI)*

As an interim head of school serving in my first headship, I found the New Heads Network an invaluable resource. We all know it is lonely in our roles as heads and even more so as new heads. This group helps build a foundation of collegiately amongst its members. Two things stand out to me the meeting 'temperature checks' and my coaching with Mary Menacho. She was a great source of information and guidance as I navigated my first year.

*Krystal Young, Interim Head of School (named Head of School),  
Countryside School (IL)*