

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS GROUP

Saudi Arabia

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*(ISG is a not-for-profit Educational System
for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.)*

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ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

March 2010

ISG Appoints IB Co-Coordinators Effective August 2010

International Schools Group is proud to announce the appointment of **Erin Rutherford** and **Elizabeth Vallejo** as International Baccalaureate (IB) Co-Coordinators beginning in August 2010. The appointment of IB Co-Coordinators follows the unanimous approval in January 2010 by the ISG Board of Trustees to endorse ISG's implementation of an International Baccalaureate programme. Deputy Headteacher of Dhahran British Grammar School (DBGS), John Power, is serving as the Interim IB Coordinator for the remainder of the 2009-10 academic year.

ISG has initiated the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) application process. The IBO approval process has a 1 ½ year timeline. If approved, the ***Dhahran Baccalaureate Centre*** will offer the first IB classes beginning in fall of 2011.

The Co-Coordinator positions have been designed to provide consistency in planning and implementation. Shared leadership between DBGS and Dhahran High School (DHS) will establish a norm of teamwork and lay a foundation for collaboration and clear communication between DBGS and DHS students, parents, and staff. The decision to appoint Co-Coordinators also draws upon the distinct leadership skills and in-depth IB programme knowledge of each staff member, recognizing the importance of such diversity during the critical years of programme development and the initial two years for the first IB cohort.

Erin Rutherford currently serves as a French Teacher for DBGS and as Director of the Model United Nations programme. Ms. Rutherford possesses extensive IB experience, serving since 2009 as an IBO Assistant Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Examiner.

Elizabeth Vallejo is a member of the ISG Leadership Team and has served since 2007 as Science Department Chair and Teacher for a variety of courses at Dhahran High School, including chemistry, honors chemistry and AP chemistry.

Prior to joining ISG, Ms. Rutherford taught French B (an advanced level of IB language training), served as a TOK Teacher, as Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) Coordinator and as Supervisor of Extended Essays over a period of six years with Taipei European School, in Taiwan. During this period, she was also a participant in international TOK and CAS training programmes. A candidate for a Master of Arts in Citizenship and History Education, Erin holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia and a BA in Applied Linguistics and French from the University of Victoria, both in Canada.

In her letter of interest to ISG, Ms. Rutherford emphasizes the essential role of planning and the critical need for a whole-school approach to service through CAS and TOK, illustrating her broad understanding of the IB Programme and highlighting the distinctive perspective offered to our students, who "... are in a unique and privileged position to be growing up in both a mixed expatriate community in the larger setting of Islamic society. From an early age they are aware of the relevance and necessity of different points of view. ... The IB programme is the most constructive forum ... to build upon this knowledge ... [as] they consider their vocational contributions to their various communities."

Elizabeth Vallejo has extensive curriculum, management and leadership experience, having participated in the assessment of Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry examinations for the past four years and in 2008 as an Assessor for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards in the United States. Educational evaluation is an integral part of the IB process. To this end, Ms. Vallejo will draw upon her prior experience as Coordinator of the New Teacher Induction Program, while working with Conant High School in Illinois, to ensure results. As current member of the DHS Leadership Team, Elizabeth plays an integral role as a liaison between administration and teachers on decisions impacting the school's academic and extracurricular programmes.

Ms. Vallejo understands the importance of earning the respect of colleagues and all stakeholders for success. She has developed her craft with patience and perseverance and will be an invaluable asset in establishing the management structure and in guiding partnerships for success. Elizabeth holds a MS in curriculum and instruction with over 13 years classroom experience. She formerly coordinated the AP chemistry and regular chemistry curriculum for a 5 high school district serving 13,500 students with approximately 35 chemistry teachers. Earlier this year, Ms. Vallejo also participated in a 3-day IB Coordinator Workshop in Singapore.

ISG District wishes to congratulate **Erin Rutherford** and **Elizabeth Vallejo** on their appointments and welcomes their expanding role in shaping success of the proposed Dhahran Baccalaureate Centre.