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Salamanca's Karen Magara Appointed to NAFIS Board of Directors

Washington, DC – August 8, 2024 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Karen Magara, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations at Salamanca City Central School District (New York), has been appointed to the NAFIS Board of Directors. The appointment took place at the Board of Director's 2024 summer meeting.

As a NAFIS Board member, Magara assumes a key leadership role in advocating for Impact Aid school districts across the nation. She will also help guide NAFIS public policy work and oversee association plans.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. It helps ensure students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

Magara has been involved with the Impact Aid Program for more than a decade and played an integral role in her district first securing Impact Aid funds in 2014. Salamanca is located on the Allegany Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians, and approximately 38% of the district's students are Native American.

"I am honored to serve on the NAFIS Board of Directors and advocate for our students. I thank the Board members for their vote of confidence in me to play such an important role. It is exciting to become a voice for the 1,100 Impact Aid-eligible school districts," said Magara.

"As I join the team as a Board member for NAFIS, I am reminded of the responsibility and privilege it is to serve. I pledge to uphold the values of integrity, collaboration and dedication to ensure that every decision I make contributes to the advancement and support of our Impact Aid schools and students," Magara continued. "The Board is crucial to ensure schools receive the funding they not only deserve, but need to fulfill their responsibilities to the tens of millions of students that we serve."

Magara also serves as the President of the Allegany-Cattaraugus Chapter of ASBO (Association of School Business Officials), is a member of the ASBO – New York Professional Development subcommittee for Workshops & Webinars and is a board member for NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System). Additionally, she serves on the Board of the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA, a NAFIS subgroup).

In addition to her experience in the education arena, she brings an important perspective to the NAFIS Board with 26 years of experience in tribal finance prior to starting in school finance in 2010.

“The NAFIS Board plays a critical role in ensuring federally impacted school districts have the resources they need to provide a high-quality education,” said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. “Karen’s extensive experience in tribal and school finance, combined with her firsthand understanding of the importance of Impact Aid in an Indian lands school district, brings invaluable knowledge and a unique perspective to the NAFIS team. I look forward to working with her to strengthen Impact Aid and support students across the country.”

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents more than 1,000 federally impacted public school districts that together educate approximately eight million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. Learn more at www.nafisdc.org.