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AGORA CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHER EARNS SPOT IN PA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERS

High School Special Educator Is first cyber charter school teacher to be awarded the fellowship, bridging the gap between online and brick and mortar schools

KING OF PRUSSIA, PA (November XX, 2018)—The Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders accepted Assistant Director of High School Special Education, Dr. Colleen L. Freyvogel, as one of the 54 fellowships offered to the over 500 school districts across the state of Pennsylvania. The goal of the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders is to build the knowledge and skills of special education administrators to direct effective programming to ensure success for all students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

“The impact of this fellowship and Dr. Freyvogel’s work at Agora is immeasurable,” said Dr. Michael Conti, CEO, Agora Cyber Charter School. “Cyber education is often underrepresented in academia and that poses a challenge for educators who are looking to grow these schools for the benefit of their student body. This fellowship is a definitive step toward the recognition of cyber schools on the same playing field as brick and mortar institutions.”

Dr. Freyvogel began her journey in education as a journalist covering education in Johnstown, Pennsylvania and Chicago, Illinois. Looking to take a more hands on approach to fixing the issues facing schools, she entered the Teach for America program before making her way to Philadelphia to teach middle school. After pursuing a master’s degree at George Mason University, she moved back to PA to teach students with exceptionalities and earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She entered the world of cyber charter institutions for Pearson, helping the company to build their special education program from the ground up before beginning her tenure at Agora in 2017.

For Dr. Freyvogel, this fellowship helps to fulfill two of the goals that she has for Agora, “The fellowship program meets once monthly and encompasses some of the top educators from across the state. Having a presence there means that we can bring that state-level thinking and information back to Agora and implement it each day,” notes Dr. Freyvogel, “It also places Agora at the forefront of education not just within the cyber community, but on a much larger scale. In many instances, Agora is on the cutting edge of what students need to be successful. Being able to represent Agora and shine a light on the great advances we’re making is an honor.”

Students at Agora choose a non-traditional path through elementary and secondary education for a number of reasons. In fact, almost 25% of the school’s total enrollment comes from students in the special education program. Whether they are combatting a physical, mental or educational exceptionality, students from across the state turn to Agora to provide a robust and challenging education that is tailored to help them thrive both academically and socially.

“We’re always aiming to grow and improve Agora to give our students every advantage and tool for success,” continued Dr. Conti. “Dr. Freyvogel’s opportunity with the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program brings forward the work we’ve already done and allows us to advance it even more.”