



Newark is our home Education is our work The World is our future

PRESS RELEASE

120 Livingston Street, Newark, NJ · [www.linkschool.org](http://www.linkschool.org)

For press inquiries, please contact:  
Sharon Machrone, Director of Communications  
973.642.5343 or [smachrone@linkschool.org](mailto:smachrone@linkschool.org)

## **MARIA PILAR PARADISO NAMED HEAD OF LINK COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN NEWARK**

(Newark - February 17, 2010) The Board of Trustees of Link Community School announces the appointment of Maria Pilar Paradiso, J.D. as Head of School, effective immediately. After an extensive nation-wide search, the Board voted unanimously to name Ms. Paradiso to the top position at Link, an independent middle school in the central ward of Newark.

According to Board Chairperson Wendy Lacey, Ms. Paradiso was selected for her “strong management and administrative skills that are complemented by the breadth and depth of her work with Link’s middle school students over the past eight years.” Additionally, Ms. Lacey continues, “Maria has a remarkable talent for addressing the needs of Link’s various constituent groups...pulling people and resources together to fulfill the mission of the school.” In summary, she stated that Ms. Paradiso “is a leader with a very well rounded skill set and the crucial leadership qualities of integrity, passion and commitment to the mission of the school. She is the right person to build upon the strong foundation of educational excellence already in place at Link.”

Ms. Paradiso, who has been serving as the interim head of school since August 2009, joined Link in 2002, and most recently held the position of Vice Principal, Director of Institutional Advancement, responsible for donor relations/fundraising, board relations, communications, alumni relations and extra-curricular student programming. During her years at Link, she served on both implementation and planning teams for the school’s strategic plans and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation. From developing an extensive array of extra-curricular offerings to spending the night camping with students, Ms. Paradiso has always been actively involved in the academic program at Link. She developed her fundraising experience while serving as Coordinator of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the New Jersey State Museum and as events manager for former United States Senator Bill Bradley’s 1990 re-election campaign. Additionally, Ms. Paradiso practiced family law with the Middlesex County Legal Services Corporation and consumer law with the Passaic County Legal Aid Office after clerking for United States Magistrate Judge John J. Hughes. She holds a J.D. from Rutgers Law School – Newark and a B.A from Montclair State University. A native of Argentina, Ms. Paradiso lives with her husband and four children in Cranford, New Jersey.

As the new head of school, Ms. Paradiso's first priority will be leading Link's move to a larger facility, targeted to take place for the opening of the 2011-2012 school year. The move to a larger building will provide Link with the opportunity to grow the academic program and other services offered to its students. At the same time she will oversee the operation of the school, including curriculum, finance, facilities, and human resources, ensuring that the school continues to provide the academic and personal development needed for students to succeed in high school, college and beyond.

Link Community School, founded by the Sisters of St. Dominic in 1969, provides an outstanding education to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a wide range of academic abilities from families of limited means from Newark and the surrounding urban area. Link's highly effective learning environment, grounded in core values and a challenging college-bound curriculum, prepares students for academic and lifelong success. In 2009, students graduating from Link earned over \$1.7 million in scholarships and financial aid to prestigious private and parochial day and boarding high schools in the North East.

#####