

For Immediate Release

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CMU Looks to Partner with Results Oriented Groups Aiming to Start New Charter Schools

Innovative organizations aiming to improve educational quality in Michigan are encouraged to submit charter school applications any time throughout the year

Lansing, MI – With a focus on continuing to close the academic achievement gap in urban, suburban and rural areas throughout the state, the nation’s leading university authorizer of charter public schools is putting out the welcome mat for innovative charter operators from across the country.

“Due to expanded opportunities in the state, we’re looking for groups with a promising vision, a sound business plan and a quality educational program to provide Michigan students with the excellent education options they deserve,” said Cindy Schumacher, Executive Director of The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University (CMU).

Benefits of partnering with CMU include the following:

- Nearly 20 years of experience launching, supporting and overseeing quality public charter schools serving largely at-risk student populations;
- The use of leading edge computer adaptive testing to measure both proficiency and student growth to support academic success;
- Annual performance reports that provide clear, concise and consistent academic, fiscal and operational assessments to improve school performance;
- State and national leadership in developing innovative processes to streamline reporting and compliance operations which allows schools to focus on student performance – not paperwork;
- Assertive representation to monitor and impact the legislative and regulatory environment; and
- Training and support for board members and other stakeholders on academic, governance, finance and operational issues faced by charter public schools.

The Michigan legislature recently removed the cap on university authorized charter public schools, and as a result the Center transitioned its charter application process from an annual, month-long window for submission to a continuous, year-round application and acceptance system. Groups interested in opening new charter public schools can now download the application online and submit them anytime throughout the school year. The charter application is available on the Center’s website.

“It’s time for educational entrepreneurs to look very closely at the opportunity to provide students with a world-class education in Michigan. We want to partner with the highest quality operators, and we’ve streamlined our application process accordingly,” said Schumacher.

CMU, the first university authorizer of charter public schools, remains a state and national leader in the charter school movement and currently authorizes 56 schools serving 29,000 students in the state.

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Click [HERE](#) to download a charter school application.