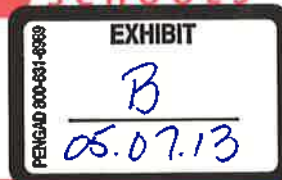


Imagine.

Design.

Create.





WORLD TRADE CENTER®
DELAWARE

May 6, 2013

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School which, if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my role as a business person in this state, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live. What has historically made our country great, and historically made a name for the state of Delaware, was our ability to think creatively, empathically, and rationally, and solve problems in such a way as to improve quality of life and enable better productivity.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would cultivate these thinking and problem-solving skills among Delaware's youth, creating not only more opportunities for them in life, but a greater potential to have such innovative problem-solving skills applied here in Delaware. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

I can't imagine a better way of ushering in a new era of entrepreneurship and innovative spirit in Delaware than developing it in our children.

It is my great pleasure to support the proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware.

Sincerely,

Rebecca C. Faber
President/CEO

Stuart Baron
Delaware College of Art and Design

May 3, 2013

To the Delaware State Board of Education:

I am writing in support of the charter application for the proposed Delaware Design-Lab High School that, if approved, would open in 2014, as I understand. To our delight the school plans to open in a facility in downtown Wilmington, a stone's throw from our buildings near 6th Street. The College, DCAD, is Delaware's only nationally accredited school of art and prepares students to transfer and complete the Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree at elite art schools across the country.

In my capacities as president, community leader, educator, etc., I oversee faculty, arts research, the college budget, development, and community outreach and partnership initiatives. Additionally, I am an executive board member of Downtown Visions and the assistant chair of Main Streets Wilmington. The College has been and will continue to be a catalyst for downtown revitalization.

The College is particularly interested in developing an ongoing relationship with the Delaware Design-Lab High School. Speaking with their founder, it was clear to me that we agree that design has so much power to change the world for the better. We are in alignment with the conviction that design-learning is at the core of critical thinking and a rigorous, contextual learning environment.

We envision a partnership with the Delaware Design-Lab High School as mutually beneficial and sustaining. A high school in Wilmington that teaches young adults through design-learning would transform educational opportunities for Delaware students and offer the Delaware College of Art and Design and other institutions of higher learning uniquely prepared critical thinkers and social innovators. The Design-Lab graduates would be well-prepared for our digital arts programs, design practices, and the rigors of the studio environment. The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eager to work with us to align their curriculum to the high expectations of our program, so they can meet the achievable goal of having every one of their graduates accepted to and succeed in a quality college or university. The School would host DCAD students as interns, helping them fulfill a community service component, a requirements for all of our students.

Therefore, it is my great pleasure to enthusiastically and strongly support the proposal to establish the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware.

Sincerely,



Stuart Baron, MFA
President



**AFRICAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Pennsylvania ♦ New Jersey ♦ Delaware

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

TO: Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

Shalimar Blakely
Executive Director

Steven Scott Bradley
Chair

April 18, 2013

Bilal Qayyum
Vice Chair

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my roles as a community leader and business owner .I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live.

Alonzo J. Primus, CPA
Treasurer

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open so many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because their curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change the world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

Oulda Simpson
Secretary

Lowell Thomas, Esq.
General Counsel

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program, or university.

Megan Smith
Public Relations

Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,


Steven Scott Bradley, Chairman

One Penn Center
1617 JFK Blvd
Suite 889
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Tel: (215) 751-9501
Fax: (215) 751-9509
info@aachamber.org
www.aachamber.org



WORLD TRADE CENTER
DELAWARE

May 6, 2013

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School which, if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my role as a business person in this state, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live. What has historically made our country great, and historically made a name for the state of Delaware, was our ability to think creatively, empathically, and rationally, and solve problems in such a way as to improve quality of life and enable better productivity.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would cultivate these thinking and problem-solving skills among Delaware's youth, creating not only more opportunities for them in life, but a greater potential to have such innovative problem-solving skills applied here in Delaware. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

I can't imagine a better way of ushering in a new era of entrepreneurship and innovative spirit in Delaware than developing it in our children.

It is my great pleasure to support the proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware.

Sincerely,

Rebecca C. Faber
President/CEO

1920 Hutton Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
www.habitatncc.org



phone 302 652 0365
fax 302 652 1006
Tax ID 51-0294138

4/26/2013

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Markell (Jack),

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

As you know, in my role as a community leader I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live. I have witnessed first-hand the great impact that charter schools have on children and our community; as my two daughters attend Las Americas Aspira Academy in Newark. Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open so many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because their curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change the world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program, or university. Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County already has a vested interest in the eastside of Wilmington with our new home and renovation projects, and more recently we are partnering with Community Education Building Delaware to salvage building materials from the building that will ultimately house this charter school and its students.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Smith
Chief Executive Officer



*Wealth
Advisors, Inc.*

A REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR

BARLEY MILL HOUSE, SUITE 300 / 3701 KENNETT PIKE, GREENVILLE, DE 19807

OFFICE (302) 351-1988 / FAX (302) 351-6108

May 6th, 2013

To: Governor Jack Markell, Delaware State Board of Education, Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my roles as a business owner and entrepreneur, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open so many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because their curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change the world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program, or university.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sicuranza, CFP®, AEP®



1 River Place
Wilmington, DE 19801

May 3, 2013

Delaware State Board of Education

Mr. Jack Markell, Governor

Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which, if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my role as a Wilmington riverfront employee, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open so many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because their curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change the world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program or university.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Terry Rubritz
Vice President
Corporate Marketing



**CHRISTIANA CARE
HEALTH SYSTEM**

4755 Ogletown-Stanton Road
Suite 2E70
Newark, Delaware 19718

Vinay Maheshwari, MD., FCCP
Director, Medical Critical Care
Medical Director, Respiratory Therapy
VMaheshwari@Christianacare.org

TO:

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

FROM:

Name: Vinay Maheshwari, M.D., FCCP
Title: Director, Medical Critical Care
Affiliation: Christiana Care Health Systems

Date: May 6, 2013

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my roles as a physician leader at Christiana, as well as a father of four children, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open so many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because their curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change the world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program, or university. Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Vinay Maheshwari, MD

DONNA HEATH

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

TO:

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

FROM:

Donna Heath
Senior Graphic Designer
Resident, Wilmington, Delaware

6 May 2013

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington. In my role as a graphic designer, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live. As a resident of Wilmington, I want to see my city thrive economically and socially.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open so many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because their curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change the world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program, or university.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Donna Heath

TO:

Delaware State Board of Education

Mr. Jack Markell, Governor

Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee

FROM:

Ranie Good

Owner, Strategic Goods Marketing Firm

Wilmington, Delaware and Red Clay School District Resident

May 1, 2013

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

In my roles as a business owner, community leader, and mentoring advocate, I am committed to developing Delaware as a wonderful place to work and live.

Granting a charter to the Delaware Design-Lab High School would open many opportunities for Delaware youth and their families because the curriculum will teach students to use Design-Learning to change their world for the better. A high school in Wilmington teaching young adults through Design-Learning would produce critical thinkers, social innovators, and successful citizens who would contribute richly to our state.

The Delaware Design-Lab High School team is eagerly developing partnerships with community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, universities, and businesses to support their goal of seeing each graduate accepted to a quality apprenticeship, training program, or university.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to support their proposal to open the Delaware Design-Lab High School in Wilmington, Delaware. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,



Ranie Good



DEPARTMENT OF ART

University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware 19716-2211
PH: 302-838-2211

Janet Hethorn, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair of the Department of Art, University of Delaware

Director of the Delaware Design Institute

I am writing to support the charter application for the proposed Delaware Design Lab High School, which, as first and foremost, would open in 2014 in New York, Wilmington.

I am also as Chair of the Department of Art for the University of Delaware and Faculty of the Delaware Design Institute, I oversee faculty, research, and grant resources for community outreach and partnerships.

We are particularly interested in developing an ongoing relationship with the Delaware Design Lab High School. Speaking with their Founder, it was clear that we agree that design has so much power to change the world for the better. We are much in accord with the conviction that Design thinking is at the core of 21st century learning.

We envision partners up with the Delaware Design Lab to bring as primarily beneficial design school in Wilmington that teacher your college through Design Thinking and transform educational opportunities for Delaware students and for the University of Delaware, among prepared critical thinkers and social innovators. Their graduates would be well prepared for our graduate programs, design practices and the global environment. The Delaware Design Lab High School team is eager to work with us to help their curriculum to the high level expectations of our program and they agree to the design lab as a very important program to accept and direct to work with us to make

So it is my pleasure to support the application for the high school in Wilmington, Delaware.

Sincerely,

Janet Hethorn
Janet Hethorn, Ph.D.

BLACKMORE
REALTY GROUP

May 5th, 2013

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Markell and Delaware State Board of Education:

I am writing to express my support for the approval of the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which I understand, would open in 2014 in the City of Wilmington.

I am confident that the Delaware Design-Lab High School will be a valuable asset to the state of Delaware and be of great benefit to the children, families, and local community because it is well-known that great schools revitalize neighborhoods, prepare young people for the workforce, and improve the quality of life for everyone. Wilmington needs a great high school like the Delaware Design-Lab High School. There aren't enough quality high schools for the number of youth living in Wilmington. The Delaware Design-Lab High School will teach students how to think critically and to collaborate, which are skills much needed in today's business environments.

I encourage you to approve the Delaware Design-Lab High School and in so doing, demonstrate your support for a positive investment in the social and financial capital of Delaware.

Sincerely,



Gregg A. D'Ascanio
Partner
Blackmore Realty Group

OLIVIA DREIBELBIS

Odreibel Educational Consultancy LLC NJ

C: 484-32601703 H: 610-621-5655

odreibel@yahoo.com

May 2, 2013

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Markell and Delaware State Board of Education:

I am writing in support of the approval of the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School scheduled to open in September 2014 in the City of Wilmington. This new High School will provide valuable educational options not only to the children it will serve but also to their families and community. The benefits provided to neighborhoods by great performing schools are well known: they help improve neighborhoods, revitalize the work force, and prepare young adults to be productive members of a community.

I know that the Delaware Design-Lab High School will perform as proposed in the charter application. As a member of the Founding Group I have seen first-hand the commitment and vocation that drives their Board. I have experienced the care given to planning a school that has at its core the provision of equity to all children enrolled, whether they have physical or emotional needs, require support through Special Education, ESL, behavioral intervention, or have needs for programs that prevent or diminish the risk of academic failure or that offer enhancement or programs for the gifted.

The thematic framework of the Delaware Design-Lab High School taps into the minds of young adults while it teaches them the basic skills expected of a successful business model: collaboration, critical thinking, ethical practices in the workplace, and the ability to use trial and error as a springboard for a successful design.

The charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School deserves your vote of approval. Wilmington deserves this chance.

Sincerely,

Olivia Dreibelbis
Special Education Specialist

Adrienne Carpenter, Ed.D.
Email: acarpent2@mac.com Tel: 267-234-8141

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
Dover, DE 19901

May 7, 2013

Members of the Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee:

I have come this evening in support of the Delaware Design Lab High School for the city of Wilmington, Delaware that is scheduled to open in September 2014. As a career urban educator and former Superintendent I have seen many types of school reform. What the Founders and the Board of the Delaware Design Lab High School have planned is high quality and sustainable educational change that will benefit the children of Delaware in ways the state has never seen.

The Delaware Design Lab High School will be a spotlight in the Wilmington community, serving as a source of educational opportunities for students engaged in innovative learning. This unique school will involve partnerships with the private sector and academic communities seeking to provide platforms for collaboration, sharing of educational best practices, and expanded efforts to ensure teaching and learning extend far beyond the traditional school services.

With a core of visionary leaders, who clearly understand the needs of the student populations and its community, the Delaware Design Lab High School is committed to ensuring rigorous, intellectually, challenging school programs. The Delaware Design Lab High School holds true to the belief that every student matters in an inclusive society. With a unique Design-Learning curriculum, Delaware Design Lab High School clearly announces that "average is officially over".

Imagine a school where creativity, innovation and imagination are part of daily learning. Imagine students who are mentally engaged, imaginative and articulate, and who are committed to making a difference in their own lives, as well as their community. Imagine an innovative school that increases the high school graduation rate. Imagine a school where students proudly come to learn. I have. And it is for this reason that I ask you to support the charter approval for the Delaware Design Lab High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Carpenter, Ed.D.
-Former Superintendent



Möbius New Media, Inc.

818 N. Market Street, 2R
Wilmington, DE 19801

May 7, 2013

Delaware State Board of Education
Mr. Jack Markell, Governor
Delaware Charter School Accountability Committee
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
Dover, DE 19901

I am writing to endorse the charter application for the Delaware Design-Lab High School, which, if approved, would open in 2014 in the city of Wilmington.

My company's first office was in downtown Wilmington. My business partners and I started our company 17 years ago with not much more than high hopes and a dream of the future. We rented the front room of a house at 14th and Tatnall, keeping our expenses low, and created something new. It was the right time.

We watched downtown Wilmington struggle in the late 90's, and so when we outgrew our first office we moved away and opened an office in the suburbs. There we stayed for close to a decade.

Five years ago we were courted back. We moved back because a very wise and insightful man in the business community sold us on another dream - being a part of the revitalization of Wilmington, and using our talents help to showcase the amazing arts and cultural offerings the city has to offer. He saw, and we quickly understood, how a design and media company could impact a community. When we moved back, it was the right time. Since then I can honestly and proudly say that we've made a difference, and Wilmington is not the same as it was before we moved back. But we've only been one piece of the puzzle. What's made Wilmington different in the last 5 years is that a group of creative people have worked together to design a new future for the City. Let me state that again - to DESIGN a new future for the city.

I find that life often places opportunities before your feet at just the right time. When I got the call asking if I'd like to help open a charter school in Wilmington, it didn't take long for me to realize that it was one of those moments and that I couldn't pass it up. Particularly because the unique nature of the curriculum - utilizing the same problem solving skills designers use to help young people develop the skills they'll need to thrive in 21st century life and work - spoke to my professional background. As a design and media professional and having been a significant part of the Wilmington community, I knew immediately that this is the right time for this school.

So why is it the right time?

It's the right time because Wilmington has a thriving design community of design and media companies that can support the school - my company Mobius New Media, and noted agencies like AB+C, The Archer Group, Trellist, Caspari McCormick, The Star Group, and others.



M Ö B I U S
• NEW MEDIA •

Möbius New Media, Inc.

818 N. Market Street, 2R
Wilmington, DE 19801

It's the right time because there's a growing concentration of higher education in Wilmington for the school's students to graduate to, many with a design focus including Delaware College of Art and Design, and Wilmington University which offers a very strong design and media program.

It's the right time because the incredibly robust arts community in Wilmington has created an environment in which creativity thrives. One where design-based problem solving is the norm, not the exception. The school's students would be a part of that community.

It's the right time because there's a new Mayor in Wilmington, who understands the importance of education in creating a safe and crime-free community and who has chosen to make it a major priority of his administration. A mayor who illustrated his deep commitment to education with his very first official act - when he broke with tradition and held his inauguration ceremony at Eastside Charter School.

And it's the right time because an incredibly talented, experienced, and skilled group of educators has come together to build another dream for the future. The visionaries behind this are amongst the best in education. They have created a remarkable and innovative curriculum, and will create a wonderfully nurturing environment for Wilmington's youth.

I am proud and honored to work with these people. I am proud to put my own professional reputation on the line in taking a leadership role with this effort. And I am proud to stand here and make this statement on behalf of the school.

Big things start with a dream. Like this school. The right school, in the right place, at the right time.

Sincerely,

Matt Urban
CEO, Möbius New Media, Inc.
Board Chairman, Delaware Design-Lab High School