
AGENDA ITEM: Replication Application – Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Inc.

**Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Inc.
Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Prescott Valley
Replication Application Summary Report**

Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Inc., a non-profit corporation, submitted a complete replication application for the 2010-2011 school year. The corporate entity seeks a charter to replicate the AAEC-Red Mountain High School. The school will be named Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Prescott Valley (AAEC-Prescott Valley). The charter holder will be Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Inc.

District Mission Statement:

AAEC's district mission is to provide quality educational opportunities facilitated by the use of high school curriculum focusing on academics, engineering, homeland security, equine, equine sciences, veterinarian sciences, medical school preparation (pre-med), agriculture and international business. All of these areas of focus will be offered at the AAEC Prescott Valley location once AAEC completes its permanent facility in August 2011.

School Mission Statement:

The mission of Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center is to prepare young adults for excellence in academics, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.

Academics:

The Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center's Prescott Valley campus (AAEC Prescott Valley) will focus on small classes, career planning, high-level science and other courses that are aligned with Arizona State Standards, and the entrance and/or completion of targeted college courses while in high school. AAEC provides a small, "hands-on" classroom environment, in biotechnology, research, engineering and science labs as well as off-site equine facilities. AAEC-Prescott Valley will be operated with the same philosophy, mission and school structure as its existing campuses. Due to leasing space the first year, AAEC Prescott Valley will not be able to facilitate all course offerings that it currently provides at the existing campuses. During the 2010-2011 school year AAEC Prescott Valley will provide all required academic courses and offer agriculture, equine courses and some veterinary science courses. AAEC Prescott Valley will occupy its own building in August of 2011. AAEC Prescott Valley will offer all courses offered at current AAEC campuses during the 2011-2012 school year.

In addition to all students taking AIMS, AAEC students are required to take the Stanford 10 and Community College Assessment (ASSET), which provides evaluation of the student's educational skills and enables the school to develop individual academic success plans for each student. The school will also align its school curriculum with Knowledge and Skills for University Students (KSUS) standards. KSUS is a study of twenty states that analyzed the degree of concurrence between states' high stakes tests and entry level university standards. This is used as a guide to implement practices suggested through the publication to assure students are gaining the skills necessary to be prepared for college. AAEC's curriculum combined with KSUS suggested standards will assist the school to identify the gaps and degree of concurrence and improve the curriculum.

AAEC juniors and seniors must take at least one college class for every semester enrolled, which are provided at no cost to them. AAEC provides technology and support to help students at all its campuses meet state academic standards in math, science, English, reading, and writing and

graduate from high school in pursuit of a career and/or continue their education. AAEC Prescott Valley, like other AAEC schools, will write and update the current curriculum every summer in combination with the other AAEC sites. Teachers are on one year contracts and work together throughout the summer in group meetings to first ensure that the curriculum reflects any changes or updates in the current State Standards in core academic areas. In the specialized elective courses, the instructors use this opportunity to interface with local veterinarians, biotechnology, healthcare institutions, international for-and non-profit organizations, and other related businesses for curriculum development and implementation through career advisory board meetings. Students who struggle with the curriculum will receive tutoring assistance from teachers, remediation, and other individual assistance to provide an opportunity to meet the coursework requirements and Arizona academic standards. Students who receive less than a “C” are required to retake the course.

Career education in the three core areas is a four-year instructional program that provides specialized entry-level preparation for specific science, technology, and math related clusters. The program adheres to a concept that provides curriculum articulation enabling students to progress toward specialized competencies at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Adult education and technician-level programs at the postsecondary level are provided to individuals desiring further preparation in technology, medicine, engineering, international business and science or math related occupations. A key component to this program is AAEC Prescott Valley’s internship program. Students will learn to make practical applications to engineering, homeland security, equine, equine sciences, veterinarian sciences medical school preparation (pre-med), agriculture and international business, and related occupations while practicing competencies taught in the instructional program.

AAEC-Red Mountain High School has experienced the following academic success as measured by AZ LEARNS and AYP:

Fiscal Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2009	Excelling	Yes
2008	Excelling	Yes
2007	Excelling	Yes

AAEC-SMCC has experienced the following academic success as measured by AZ LEARNS and AYP:

Fiscal Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2009	Performing Plus*	No*
2008	Highly Performing	Yes
2007	Highly Performing	Yes

AAEC-Paradise Valley has experienced the following academic success as measured by AZ LEARNS and AYP:

Fiscal Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2009	Highly Performing*	No*
2008	Excelling	No*
2007	Highly Performing	Yes

*Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Inc. has provided explanations and steps taken that address the AYP deficiencies and the changes in AZ LEARNS profiles. The explanation from AAEC is as follows:

“In response to your letter requesting additional information on AAEC’s replication application, you requested us to provide you with more detail on AZ Learns and our AYP status. I am providing the following attachments that indicate that we have taken action to improve the graduation rate. There have been significant improvements in our graduation rate at AAEC Paradise Valley as you will note in the attachment pulled from the common logon. This year AAEC PV graduation rate will be 85%, significantly higher than previous years. Our South Mountain campus with further research has had some errors that we are presently correcting, I am confident that after these are done AAEC South Mountain will meet AYP. In addition AAEC South Mountain has reorganized the current administration and has added an assistant principal whose primary focus will be to more closely monitor student graduation; ensuring students are on track within the four year time frame. We are confident that AAEC South Mountain will continue to improve their graduation rate.

In regards to the AZ Learns designation please review our AIMS scores and you will notice that although we did not have a significant increase in students passing into the exceed level; we do have significant higher scores than the state average. AAEC South Mountain is a Title I school and the feeder schools have historically not provided this campus with students that AAEC considers readily prepared for high school. With much work, skill and staff determination AAEC South Mountain has brought that campus up above the state average significantly and has come close to or surpassed our other two campuses in reading writing and mathematics. The other two campuses sit in predominantly high income areas. All three campuses had scores well above the state averages and have proven to have commendable higher scores consistently than the state. All sites are currently NCA accredited and have received numerous recognitions for being high performing and well organized schools. We are extremely proud of our schools and will continue to strive to be one of the top schools in the state in regards to preparing students for college.”

Market Analysis:

Location:

The proposed location of AAEC Prescott Valley will be located in Prescott Valley in the area of Glassford Hill and East Civic Center Drive. The school will be directly adjacent to Prescott Valley Community College, Prescott Valley Library and Northern Arizona University Prescott Valley satellite campus. AAEC students will be allowed to use the college’s library, media center, computer center, workout rooms and other facilities; as part of their course of study. The AAEC building is currently designed at approximately 23 thousand SF. The building will consist of sixteen classrooms, two biotechnology laboratories, two computer labs, one community room, one administrative building with six offices, and four bathroom facilities.

Target Market:

AAEC Prescott Valley will be able to provide the community with an educational program that is aligned with the community’s current interests and businesses. The City of Prescott Valley and Prescott is known locally to be an equine and agriculture community. With the presence of Emery Riddle in Chino Valley area AAEC will provide students the initial knowledge in engineering, homeland security and international business fields to feed into Emery Riddle’s program. AAEC Prescott Valley will provide the surrounding community an opportunity to have their children retain the cultural/business emphasis in the area and provide them with the tools to further their education in a college-prep high school.

Student ethnicity:	Prescott Valley
Caucasian	72%
Hispanic	24%
Native American	2%
African American	1%
Asian	1%

The target market audience is students entering grades 9-12 in the fall 2010.

Governance Structure:

Corporate Board: Key Roles

The Corporate Board will supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the corporation. The Corporate Board will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Corporation Commission requirements, and other state and federal regulations.

Governing Body: Key Roles

The Advisory/Governing Board of Directors will provide support, advice and /or expertise to the corporation. They will be responsible for overseeing activities of the schools; completion and oversight of all financial and budgetary matters, financial operations, and provide direction to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will be responsible for overseeing all staff members, professional development; and review of curriculums and instruction; management of school inclusive of attendance, discipline, testing, counseling, vocational opportunities and all related activities. The Executive Director reports directly to and is responsible to the Governing Board.

	AAEC-Red Mountain High School	AAEC-Prescott Valley High School
Instructional Program		
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12
Special Emphasis	College prep, engineering, homeland security, equine, equine sciences, veterinarian sciences medical school preparation (pre-med), agriculture and international business	College prep, engineering, homeland security, equine, equine sciences, veterinarian sciences medical school preparation (pre-med), agriculture and international business
Methodology	Career Education “Learning-by-doing”	Career Education “Learning-by-doing”
Demographics		
Location	7110 E. McKellips Mesa, AZ 85207	Prescott Valley, AZ
Enrollment	300	300
Organizational Structure		
Authorized	Linda Proctor-Downing	Linda Proctor-Downing

Representative(s)		
Corporate Principals	Linda Proctor-Downing Pamela Burns Vicki DeDario-Grady	Linda Proctor-Downing Pamela Burns Vicki DeDario-Grady
Governing Board	Linda Proctor-Downing Brian Downing Pamela Burns Linda McCormick Michael Larrabee	Linda Proctor-Downing Pamela Burns Linda McCormick Michael Larrabee

Suggested Motion:

Approve the replication application and grant the charter for Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center Prescott Valley (AAEC-Prescott Valley).