AGENDA ITEM: Institute for Transformative Education

Institute for Transformative Education submitted an application package for the Board's consideration. This report contains:

- A staff overview and summary of the application package, including a description of the proposed education plan, a description of the applicant's organization with a summary of information submitted regarding applicant education and experience, and a description of the applicant's budget plan.
- A copy of the scoring rubric which confirms the application package does meet the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on July 1, 2010, the technical assistance provided to the applicant, and a review of the revised application package submitted on November 15, 2010,
- The application package submitted by the applicant.

Institute for Transformative Education is an Arizona non-profit corporation. The authorized representative for the corporation is Dr. Celestino Fernandez. The proposed school, Western Institute for Leadership Development, will serve grades 9 through 12 in Tucson. The mission of the Western Institute for Leadership Development is to prepare students for college, career, civic engagement and leadership. This supportive, inclusive learning community will provide a culture of rigor and relevance, addressing real-world problems with creativity and innovation. Students, teachers, and community members will collaborate as partners in neighborhood and community development, and strive to continuously improve the practices of leadership and life-long learning. The Western Institute will operate in the spirit of Every Voice in Action Foundation's mission: to ignite and support youth voice, infusing the community with the unique perspectives of young people.

A. EDUCATION PLAN

Educational Philosophy	**Philosophical approach** In the narrative, the applicant states that Western Institute formed to prepare students for college, career, civic engagement and leadership. Students enter a single track project based, core curriculum aligned to the Arizona Standards and entrance requirements of Arizona's two and four year colleges and universities. The Western Institute will intentionally cultivate a "college going culture", which is the most reliable predictor of students' academic success. **Rationale** The narrative states that research has shown that today's students can expect to have at least 6-8 different careers, and that today's content knowledge will be soon obsolete. In this context, academic rigor involves the extent to which a curriculum challenges students to learn how to learn, derive meaning, and produce knowledge that informs effective action. The Western Institute shares the educational approach of High Tech High in San Diego, CA in adopting a project-based curriculum based on big questions, real-world issues, and ample opportunity for student choice and decision-making.
Target Population	Institute for Transformative Education is seeking a school facility in Tucson within a central, lower-income area to facilitate support transportation by students that rely on public transportation. The target population is ethnically diverse with a population of 37% Hispanic, 4-5% African American, and 41-54% White within the 10-mile radius.
Program of Instruction	**Framework** The Institute for Transformative Education will use a project based, constructivist approach, as modeled by High Tech High schools in San Diego, CA. Class time will be devoted to direct, scaffolded instruction based on specific performance objectives delineated in the Arizona Content Standards, including targeted practice and assessments. **Methods of Instruction** The narrative lists the following to be used as their methods of instruction:

- Professional Learning Community
- Project Based Curriculum Design

Methods of Assessment

The Institute for Transformative Education will administer baseline (beginning of the year) and interim assessments aligned to state standards, receive an analysis of students' skill gaps if any, and design a program for that student that may include before, during, and after school tutoring and academic coaching.

- Formative assessments will be frequent, specific and embedded in lessons. Teachers may select interim assessments for students using Spiral Universe and design appropriate remediation if necessary, when appropriate, in consultation with the special education director/coordinator.
- Summative assessments will be in the range of unit, quarterly, and yearly to establish mastery of the performance objectives. Western Institute will use paper-pencil tests with selected responses, paper-pencil tests with constructed responses, written performance assessments, single or multimedia performance assessments, quarterly and end-of-year digital portfolios, and semester project exhibitions.
- Standardized Testing: Western Institute will administer AIMS and all required standardized tests as mandated.
- Diagnostic Exams/Remediation: Newly enrolled students will take diagnostic in reading, writing, and mathematics; the principal and teacher(s) will review their previous records and state-mandated results.

School Calendar: Standard
180 Days

Student Count

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	9-10	90	1
2	9-11	155	1
3	9-12	215	1

PMP

Reading Target - Year 1: 68% proficient; **Year 2:** 76% proficient
Math Target - Year 1: 60% proficient; **Year 2:** 70% proficient

2010 AIMS State Average Percent Proficient
HS Reading: 77%
HS Math: 58%

B. ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Institute for Transformative Education is a non-profit corporation, located in Tucson, AZ, that was created on June 10, 2010 for the purpose of operating a charter school with two Directors: Celestino Fernandez and Rosie Garcia.

Recruitment of Board Members

Board members will be recruited from exceptional community members that will be strong advocates for the school's mission and vision. Qualifications for additional directors will include their ability to perform the board's responsibilities with excellence as well as the particular expertise they possess that will enhance the board's overall ability to govern. Following one year of school operation, two board members will be recruited from the student body each year to serve one year terms.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors and Governing Body will be one and the same
• Maintain the integrity of the school mission and vision • Establish and approve overall teaching policies and academic models, student policies, employee policies • Adopt the annual budget

• Recruit and replace board members • Commitment to support for mission in every category • Compliance with Arizona Open Meeting Law

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Rosie Garcia	M.Ed. Secondary	1975-Present Spanish Teacher Sunnyside High School	Valid	There were no concerns identified through the background or credit check.
Dr. Celestino Fernandez	PHD Sociology Stanford University	1976-Present Director of Undergraduate Studies	Valid	There were no concerns identified through the background or credit check.

Current and Prior Charter Performance

Authorized Representative	
Dr. Celestino Fernandez	The applicant is identified as a Principal for two (2) other charters sponsored by the Board: PPEP-TEC Charter High School: The school is in good standing. Arizona Virtual Academy: The school is in good standing. The applicant is identified as a Principal for one (1) other charter sponsored by Antelope Valley School District: Los Angeles Online High School: The school is in good standing.
Rosie Garcia	The Principal is identified as a Principal for one (1) other charter sponsored by the Board: Luz-Guerrero Early College High School: The school is in good standing.

C. BUSINESS PLAN

Site Information

Proposed School	School name: Western Institute for Leadership Development This site will be located in Tucson. The school will need administrative offices, six or more classrooms, lab and meeting space, and library/resource room at approximately 14,000 square feet. At capacity, the site must be approximately 40-45,000 square feet.

Budget

Budget	Year one operating budget is based on 84% of anticipated student enrollment of 95 students. Annual budgets as presented indicate adequate resources to meet projected expenditures.
Secured Funds	The amount identified for start-up has been confirmed as having been secured.

Findings

Education	The application meets the minimum requirements.
Organization	The application meets the minimum requirements.
Business	The application meets the minimum requirements.

Staff Recommendation
Approve the application and grant a charter to Institute for Transformative Education to establish Western Institute for Leadership Development Charter School.