B.2 Applicant Composition

Corporate Principals:

Celestino Fernandez, Ph.D. is the President of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Transformative Education. Professor Fernandez received both an M.A. and a Ph.D. in sociology from Stanford University. Since 1976, he has served as Professor of Sociology at the University of Arizona where he also has served in several senior-level administrative positions. In 2000-2001 he served as an American Council on Education Fellow at the University of Phoenix. Between 1994 and 1998, Dr. Fernandez served as the CEO of a the Arizona International College. Dr. Fernandez has served on numerous university task forces and committees as well as on many state, regional and national boards and committees including the American Sociological Association, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the Higher Learning Commission. He has also served on 20 institutional accreditation review teams for three associations – North Central, Middle States and Western – covering higher education institutions of all types and sizes.

Dr. Fernandez has received numerous awards including in 2007 being named University Distinguished Outreach Professor from the University of Arizona in recognition of his "exceptional service to the community, state and nation." Other awards include the Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award from the Hispanic Caucus of the American Association for Higher Education (1998), the University of Arizona Honorary Alumnus Award (1997), the Arizona Governor's Spirit of Excellence Award (1994) and the Jewish Federation's Human Relations Award (1992).

Dr. Fernandez's community service and commitment to education is exemplary and wide-ranging. Dr. Fernandez is a founding and continuing board member of San Miguel High School, a college-prep school for students from poor and working class families. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors of the University of Phoenix, Arizona Virtual Academy, PPEP-TEC Charter High School, and Insight Online High School (in California). He also serves on the boards of the Tucson International Mariachi Conference, and Every Voice in Action Foundation. For many years he served on the Board of Directors of La Frontera Center, Inc., the largest behavioral health agency in southern Arizona.

Rosie Garcia is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Transformative Education. Garcia has a Master of Education in Secondary Education and a Principal's Certification, K-12, from the University of Arizona. She has been a secondary education teacher at Sunnyside High School for 35 years. During that time she has been a tireless advocate for the pursuit of academic excellence and higher education for lower-income and minority youth. At Sunnyside she has served as sponsor of the National Honor Society for 10 years, the Wildcat Society for 7 years, and the Graduation Committee for 14 years.

Garcia is an award-winning educator who received the 2007 LULAC National Presidential Citation Outstanding Educator's Award. She has served on the Board of

Directors of Luz Academy of Tucson Preparatory School and Every Voice in Action Foundation. She received the Neighborhood Champion Award in 2006 from Sidewinders Baseball and Bank of America. Twice (2006 & 1992) she was given the Outstanding Community Service and Citizenship Achievement award from the United States Department of Justice.