## B.1: Applicant Entity

Copper Point High School is a part of the non-profit organization, Innovative Humanities Education Corporation (IHEC). IHEC was founded in 2012 to provide education services for students interested in vacating the traditional classroom for a project-based learning environment. The corporation was designed to create schools that will give students project-based, community centered learning; schools where students will focus on the problems in the community and use higher-level critical thinking skills to pose solutions to those problems. In order to do this, IHEC decided to write a charter.

### History

IHEC was formed to found Copper Point High School, a Tucson public charter high school, and any future replication schools. For well over a year, the passionate group of educators that founded IHEC have been meeting as a board weekly to draft the charter, contact investors, design educational programs, get community input, and explore best possible locations for the Copper Point High School building. The IHEC corporate board currently consists of 3 members. Others from the community who have been instrumental in the start-up of the school will become members of Copper Point's Governing Board.

The founding directors of IHEC are all educators. The corporation was created by teachers who were unhappy with the current state of education in Southern Arizona; teachers who knew they could do more to support a growing number of failing high school and junior high students in the area. Copper Point will allow students to have a viable, college prep option without the restrictive, "teach to the test" focus of other high-performing charter schools. IHEC believes education should be authentic and that students should drive their own education.

During the 2012-13 school year, Ryan Townsend, Jocelyn Quintanar, and Joseph McKnight all worked together in a charter school. As a pilot program to try and implement the Expeditionary Model at that school, Jocelyn and Ryan worked with one other teacher to complete an expedition on Hunger. Joseph worked in the administration to assist with coaching, collaborating, and making community contacts. Students in their sophomore and junior years utilized English and History courses to take part in this pilot. Students were tasked with finding a solution to hunger; sophomores at a local level and juniors at a state level. In addition to community service, students had politicians; including Mayor John Rothschild, Martha McSally, and Frank Antenori; speak to the class. Doctors and community members also came in to discuss the effects of hunger on the body, population, and community efforts to solve the problem. With the combined curriculum, students demonstrated a 30-40% growth in pre to post test scores for the duration of the pilot. Upon completion, the school and corporation decided not to continue the program. At that time, Ryan, Jocelyn and Joseph decided that the growth and student motivation, achievement and staff satisfaction were enough to branch away and create their own school that would implement Expeditionary Learning schoolwide.

**Organization**

Innovative Humanities Education Corporation (IHEC) will hold the charter of Copper Point high School. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of not less than three (3) and no more than five (5) directors. The initial Board appointed in the articles of incorporation shall serve as the corporation's directors until their successors are appointed. The Board shall appoint such additional directors or replacement directors as it deems necessary. Each officer shall hold office until he or she shall resign or shall be removed or otherwise disqualified to serve, or a successor shall be elected and qualified.*(See attached Organizational Chart)*

**Charter Experience**

The founders of IHEC have prior experience in the administration and educational programs of a Tucson charter high school. Mr. McKnight has served as a Vice-principal in a successful and charter school, as well as a teacher. Mr. Townsend and Ms. Quintanar are currently high school teachers at a local charter high school. All three a familiar with the operations of a charter high school and the particular challenges faced by high school students for low socio economic areas in Tucson. Each has had a positive experience with the Expeditionary Learning model.

In addition to personal experience, IHEC has consulted with other groups who will provide support and resources of the school. Red Apple Financial provides back office support for upwards of 20 charter schools in Utah. They will provide IHEC with examples of best financial practices from other EL schools across the nation. IHEC is consulting with a network of Expeditionary Learning schools in the Western United states and will take advantage of the professional development offerings they provide. IHEC has consulted with School House Development, an Arizona based building developer who specializes in the financing and construction of Arizona charter schools. With the combined charter school experience in administration, finance, education and facility development of IHEC and its supporters, Copper Point High School will begin its operations in the fall of 2014 on a strong foundation.

**Roles**

The following represent the general responsibilities of the IHEC corporate board;

• The Board shall manage and control the assets and affairs of the corporation;
• The Board has fiscal oversight and ensures regulatory compliance and legal accountability.
• Oversight of Good Standing with the Corporation Commission;
• Fiscal health of the corporation – preparing and submitting annual fiscal reports to the Arizona Corporation Commission;
• Appoint the Governing Board;
• Fill vacancies on the Corporate Board or any committee thereof, including the Governing Board;
• Adopt, amend, or repeal the bylaws;
• Oversight of the operation of the school;
• Hiring and evaluating the school's principal; dismissal of the school's principal;

• Debt or bond financing
• Final approval of the annual budget and compensation plan
• Sale, lease, purchase, or disposition of real property

Each member of the **IHEC Board** has the right to vote in regards to policy decisions. In the event of a tie vote, the CEO shall have the right to cast a deciding vote. (See attached Bylaws) IHEC will be on top of the organizational structure, making all policy and financial decisions. Beneath IHEC is the **governing board for Copper Point High School**. The governing board consists of community members appointed by the board of IHEC. This is to ensure that the members of the governing board share the same vision as the IHEC board and will act in the best interests of the charter. The function of the governing board is to enforce the charter and to provide input on policy decisions implemented by IHEC.

IHEC will recruit, hire and train the **Principal**, who will manage the school's administration, teaching and staff in accordance with the organizational flow chart listed below. The Principal of the school will work with the governing board and IHEC to make decisions for the school that represent the best interests of the charter and the student population as a whole.

**Background of Principals**

Joseph McKnight – CEO of IHEC
Joseph was educated in Phoenix and graduated from the Glendale Unified School District. Joseph has an extensive background in instruction and curriculum development through his experience in the professional business field and public education. He graduated from Arizona State University with his Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education with a specialty in History in 2003. He has earned his Master's Degree in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University and is currently working on his second Master's Degree in American History. Joseph also has a background in financial advising. Joseph is acting President. He has general supervision, direction and control of IHEC. He has been predominately involved with securing data, writing the charter and securing opportunities for the organization to find investors. In addition, he has been actively involved in research and has been the face and leader of the organization.

Ryan Townsend - CFO of IHEC
Ryan was educated in both Tucson Unified School District and graduated from one of the first charter schools in Tucson, Arizona. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Philosophy, and German Studies and also received his M. Ed in Secondary Education in 2009. In addition, he is certified to teach Government and Economics. Since that time, Ryan has worked in charter schools in Tucson teaching History, Economics, and Government. Ryan is the acting Treasurer. He keeps records of all financial transactions and accounts. Ryan has been contributing to the research and data collection for the charter, in addition to maintaining the website and email accounts.

Jocelyn Quintanar - CIO of IHEC.

Jocelyn was educated in Marana Unified School District in Tucson, Arizona for middle and high school. She graduated from the University of Arizona in May of 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and History. In addition, she has a Minor in English Education. Since, Jocelyn has worked in charter schools in Tucson teaching English and World History. Jocelyn is the acting Secretary. She takes minutes at every meeting and distributes these and other documents to the board members and community members. Jocelyn has been contributing to the compiling, assembling and editing the charter.