B.1 Applicant Organization

La Tierra Community School, Inc. is a corporation created on July 29, 2009 with the purpose of offering Expeditionary Learning to elementary students in Prescott. La Tierra Community School will operate as small, independent school for the 2010-2011 school year with the hope of securing a charter for the 2011-2012 school year. The charter will begin as a K-3 school with the intention of adding grade levels in subsequent years. The Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission. The corporation has a federal EIN and is applying for federal 501(c)(3) status.

La Tierra Community School (LTCS) is currently starting up with grades 2-5 on August 16, 2010 as a private school. The founders of the school have the goal of making LTCS as close to free as possible and have raised funds from individuals, charitable foundations and the Prescott-Yavapai Indian Tribe for the first year of operation. With the help of Prescott College as the school's current fiscal agent, LTCS has applied to the Yavapai County Community Foundation for assistance with scholarship funds for this first year as well. LTCS will be a small, Expeditionary Learning School that hopes to grow into a K-3 public charter school and a separate 4-6 private school in 2011-2012. Following that school year, LTCS will apply to the Charter Board for subsequent grades to be added to the charter over the next few years. Year one of the charter will be for K-3, year two will be K-4 and year three will be K-5. Amendments for each additional grade level will be completed annually.

LTCS chose this strategy because starting small feels more manageable both for the application process and for the compliance with charter law. In addition, families were eager to enroll in LTCS as they are excited about the Expeditionary Learning model and the mission of the school. By starting with 20 students as a private school, the hope is that our marketing will be much improved due to the excitement that this first year will generate. LTCS already has a wait list of students for the 2010-2011 year and a lot of interest for the 2011-2012 year. The school is currently leasing a building from the Granite Peaks Unitarian Universalist Church, demonstrating the parish's belief in the school's mission and support of this educational model as well.

La Tierra Community School Inc. has five corporate principals at this time: Dr. Anita Fernández, Mr. David DenHartog, Dr. Paul Burkhardt, Mr. Francisco Lisbona and Ms. Bev Santo. These five individuals will serve as the directors of the corporation and their qualifications are discussed in detail in the next section of this application. A school governing school board will be created for the general oversight of the school's governance. The school governing board will meet monthly and serve as the main governing board of the school. The reason for having a corporate board only meet annually is that their responsibilities are only for major decisions and annual meetings will suffice. The corporate board will only meet annually to approve the year's budget and any leases the organization decides to sign. This structure is outlined in Article V, Section 2 of La Tierra Community School bylaws:

Section 2. Committee of the Governing School Board. The Governing School Board shall have at least one Director from the non-profit Corporate Board as a member, appointed to the

LTCS Governing School Board by a majority vote of the Corporate Board. All other members of the LTCS Governing School Board shall be elected by a majority vote of the member of the LTCS Governing School Board at any regular or special meeting of the LTCS Governing School Board. The Governing School Board is responsible for the day-to-day operation of La Tierra Community School and reports to the Corporate Board. The Corporate Board will approve critical matters such as annual budget, facility purchases and lease agreements.