B.2 Applicant Composition

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. Pam Gilchrist These five individuals will serve as the directors of the corporation. Dr. Anita Fernández will serve as the authorized representative for the corporation.

Anita E. Fernández, Ph.D.
Dr. Fernández is a corporate principal and co-founder of La Tierra Community School, Inc. She is currently an Education professor at Prescott College where she teaches a variety of courses to elementary and secondary preservice teachers seeking their Arizona state certification. Along with her teaching, Dr. Fernández chairs the Education Program and serves on the Teacher Preparation steering committee. Dr. Fernández earned a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in Language, Reading and Culture – a department within the College of Education. Her M.A. in Teaching and Teacher Education also came from the University of Arizona, as did her Arizona state certification in secondary English. Dr. Fernández earned a B.A. in English from the University of Colorado.

Experience in Elementary/Secondary Education
Dr. Fernández was a public high school English teacher in Tucson, Arizona before teaching in higher education. She worked with a highly diverse student body and taught grades 9-12 English as well as Journalism. In her current position, and while teaching at California State University Chico, Dr. Fernández taught both elementary and secondary teacher preparation courses as well as supervised field experiences and provided professional development in schools. Most recently, she served as board vice-president for a local K-8 charter school. Serving on this board, she gained experience overseeing the financial, academic and operational aspects of a K-8 charter school.

Curriculum Development & Expeditionary Learning Experience
Dr. Fernández has developed curriculum alongside elementary and secondary teachers for the past eight years. As the co-director of the Resources for International Studies in Education Center, in Chico, California, she assisted teachers with infusing international studies into their K-12 curriculum. Dr. Fernández offered professional development workshops on topics such as Curriculum Theory, Authentic Assessment and Working with English Language Learners. She currently works closely with local K-12 public schools and has formed strong relationships with administrators and teachers. Because of her position as Education chair, she places students in field settings and spends much of her time observing her students practicing their teaching. One of the courses Dr. Fernández teaches at Prescott College is *Expeditionary Learning (EL)*, which is an introductory course on practices, structures and philosophies of EL. She has attended multiple EL institutes and has worked with EL teachers to help them create investigations and expeditions that meet the EL criteria. This experience will help her to ensure that La Tierra Community School is using EL practices in an authentic and meaningful manner.

David DenHartog: David DenHartog is a corporate principal and co-founder of La Tierra Community School, Inc. the Arizona not-for-profit corporation that will operate La

Tierra Community School – a K-8 public charter school. Mr. DenHartog brings a wealth of experience working with charter schools in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Minnesota. Mr. DenHartog is in the process of completing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Drake University and has a Master's in Arts in Education Administration from the University of Northern Iowa. He taught for almost ten years at the middle and high school levels and was a Principal / Director for a start-up charter school in Minnesota before taking on his current position as a School Designer (educational consultant) for Expeditionary Learning Schools.

School Development
Mr. DenHartog has been on the ground floor of creating several charter schools around the United States. Mr. DenHartog was the Director of a start-up charter school in Minnesota and took on all administrative responsibilities. In his current role as a School Designer with Expeditionary Learning he has helped build several new charters including Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy, in Prescott, AZ; Vista Grande High School, in Taos, NM; and Entheos Academy, in Salt Lake City, UT.

Professional Development
A significant portion of Mr. DenHartog's current responsibilities include leading professional development for teachers and administrators. He has facilitated institutes in the areas of Reading; Writing; Curriculum Development; and Assessment. Mr. DenHartog gets the opportunity to work with teachers in schools throughout the Southwest, modeling effective teaching and promoting best practices.

Grant Writing
Mr. DenHartog has been successful in writing and receiving several grants including the Federal charter start-up grant and Walton Family Foundation grant for Voyageurs Expeditionary High School. He has also helped administer an Expeditionary Learning grant (that came from the Gates Foundation) which the Prescott Unified School District received.

Community Connections - *Prescott National Forest—Youth Stewardship*
Mr. DenHartog has been an active participant in the Prescott National Forest Youth Stewardship committee that has been instrumental in increasing youth exposure and interaction with the Prescott National Forest. Helping keep young people connected to the natural world is a high priority for Mr. DenHartog and this committee helps facilitate that goal.

Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist --- Youth Leader
Being involved with the senior youth at GPUU congregation has allowed Mr. DenHartog to help young people be more active in social justice activities. Mr. DenHartog has helped facilitate numerous opportunities where young people exemplify the value of service, another priority for Mr. DenHartog.

YMCA Volunteer--- Youth Sports Coach

Keeping young people active and offering them opportunities to learn about the importance of "team" is what motivates Mr. DenHartog to volunteer his time as a YMCA coach. In the past couple of years, Mr. DenHartog has been the coach of basketball, baseball, and soccer teams. He has coached a variety of sports throughout his career and helps young people recognize how the lessons they learn through sports (i.e. success and failure) are important lessons to facilitating a productive life.

Paul Burkhardt, Ph.D.

Dr. Burkhardt is a corporate principal of La Tierra Community School Inc. and brings with him an extensive history of teaching and administrating experience. Dr. Burkhardt is currently the Chief Academic Officer of Prescott College as well as the Dean of the Graduate Programs. His studies at the University of Arizona, led to a doctorate in Comparative Cultural & Literary Studies. As is evident from his resume, Dr. Burkhardt has excelled in teaching, securing grants and earning scholarships. His current position at Prescott College has given him the experience of leading the reaccredidation process for both our teacher education program and the college's national accreditation.

Experience in Elementary/Secondary Education

Dr. Burkhardt has worked closely with schools both as an administrator overseeing teacher preparation programs and as a teacher himself. He has led field experiences outside the traditional classroom with children of all ages. Dr. Burkhardt has a solid understanding of children's cognitive development as well as how to meet the needs of diverse populations of students. Because of his work along the border and in the Caribbean, Dr. Burkhardt feels passionately about offering high quality, rigorous academics for underserved populations.

Financial Management & Operations Experience

Dr. Burkhardt currently serves as a cabinet member of Prescott College's President's Circle. He shares management of an $18,000,000 total company budget and directly manages a budget area with $4, 5000,000 in expenses. His financial management expertise will be a direct asset to La Tierra Community School, as he will help with the school's budget operations. Additionally, Dr. Burkhardt has extensive strategic planning experience at both unit and institution wide levels. He has run committees, programs, and colleges over the course of his work experience.

Francisco "Linde" Lisbona

Mr. Lisbona is currently a Math Teacher at Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy a charter high school in Prescott, AZ newly formed from a four-year Prescott Unified School District school. He brings with him substantial teaching experience in both traditional and non-traditional settings. Mr. Lisbona holds a B.A. in History from Colorado State University and an Arizona Teacher Certification in History as well as Middle Grades Math. Mr. Lisbona is a certified Wilderness First Responder and has extensive outdoor education experience.

Experience in Elementary/Secondary Education

As is evident from his resume, Mr. Lisbona has extensive teaching experience across the grades. He has taught middle and high school Social Studies, high school Spanish and middle school Math. Mr. Lisbona most recently taught at a K-8 charter school which was an Expeditionary Learning school at the time of his teaching. This experience as an EL teacher will serve the school well as Mr. Lisbona will share his understanding and implementation of EL core practices.

Experience in Adventure and Outdoor Education
Mr. Lisbona has worked at a wilderness instructor, a base camp manager and an Outward Bound logistics coordinator. Because of these experiences, Mr. Lisbona will be a valuable resource for a core piece of Expeditionary Learning called "Adventure and Fitness". Additionally, Mr. Lisbona's connection with Prescott College as an alumni and former employee, will ensure a smooth connection between the college and La Tierra Community School.

Pam Gilchrist – resigned, replaced with Bev Santo who's paperwork is on file with ASBCS
Ms. Gilchrist is a corporate principal of La Tierra Community School, Inc. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Illinois and an M.A. in Teaching from National-Louis University. Ms. Gilrichst has an Arizona Teacher Certification in Elementary Education and has been teaching for the last twelve years. She became interested in La Tierra Community School due its affiliation with Prescott College and Expeditionary Learning. As a parent, Ms. Gichrist is excited about the prospect of an innovative K-8 school for her own children.

Experience in Elementary/Secondary Education
Ms. Gilchrist has extensive Elementary Education experience as she has taught grades PK-5 and currently teaches at Primavera School, a private school in Prescott.

Areas Requiring Outside Expertise

Outside expertise will be sought in areas of curriculum and instruction over the course of La Tierra Community School's existence. Expeditionary Learning Schools (ELS) and Prescott College will both be agencies that will provide oversight in these areas. La Tierra will seek outside expertise in the area of financial management and strategic planning from these two organizations as well as from accounting experts in the community. La Tierra is committed to seeking assistance when needed and because of the make up of the corporate principals of La Tierra Inc., the school will have a variety of experts and contacts to draw from. La Tierra has budgeted sufficient funds form which to draw for outside services.