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Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Post Office Box 18328
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

Dear Board Members:

I am writing this letter in support of the Vista College Preparatory charter application in south Phoenix.

As quoted in the recently released report: 'Dropped? Latino Education and Arizona's Economic Future' by ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy, "Arizona simply cannot wait another 10 years for another report, another dire warning or another undereducated generation to enter the economy unprepared and unable to fully compete and succeed".

Through my position on the Regional Advisory Board of Teach for America, I am all too aware of the need for finding ways to narrow the achievement gap in low-income, high minority areas. The district schools are failing to help these students from Kindergarten through 12th grade overcome their surroundings.

Our businesses need an educated and self sustaining workforce and our next generation of business leaders needs to be prepared for the future. Lead founder, Julia Meyerson did not begin her teaching career with an eye toward primary grades. Instead, through the Teach for America program and an assignment in Brooklyn, New York, her desire to elevate low-income minority children in their early years and provide a means to advance their lives grew to a passion. Julia went on to be accepted into the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship program and has been well trained both on the curriculum and the business side of managing a charter school.

We know through the achievement levels of similar model schools in the Building Excellent Schools system that the model Julia Meyerson and the founding board expect to implement—this program works.

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I strongly encourage the approval of the Vista College Preparatory charter application.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Burnham, Shareholder,
Real Estate Practice Group, Manager,
Greenberg Traurig, LLP