February 24,2013

Arizona State Board for Charter School
1616 West Adams Street Suite 170
Phoenix, Arizona 86007
Attn: Martha Morgan

Dear Ms. Morgan

It is my understanding that Champion Schools are up for their 15 year Arizona Board for Charter School renewal. I have devoted a great deal of my career to addressing the developmental and emotional needs of youth through my professional work over the past 17 years as Senior Vice President of Youth Services International in Florida and more recently as Clinical Director for Bayless Health Care here in Phoenix. However, no child is more precious to me than my own five year old son who is currently enrolled at the Champion School located in south Phoenix. As such I would like to offer this letter of support to the Board of Charter School for this wonderful school seeking a well deserved renewal for the continuing privilege of educating the youth of our community.

As my wife and I considered enrolling our son in school for the first time, for over a year we considered all the possibilities. Even prior to preschool, we taught our son our own love of words and reading so when the time came to enroll him in Kindergarten, we wanted to make sure it was a school that would challenge students to achieve excellence when possible and provide support and assistance if and when needed. We wanted a school that would mirror the demands and realities of the world we are preparing to have him enter with confidence to compete with others as well as the compassion to co-exist respectfully with others. Ironically the Champion Schools were brought to my attention by a clinical therapist on my staff at one of our clinical in south Phoenix who mentioned in glowing terms her interactions with the staff of the school attended by one of her clients. My wife and I subsequently visited the school, toured the campus, spoke to several of the staff and were impressed by the spirit and enthusiasm they imparted with pride about their school. We returned with our son for another walk through tour and we all agreed to enroll him at Champion.

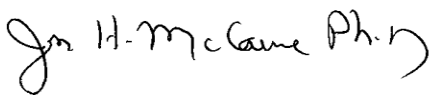
My wife and I know we made the right choice. We have attended teacher meetings, science fairs and various celebrations of academic and spots excellence by the students. Our son Jonathan received recognition as a student athlete participating in sports and obtaining a 4.00 grade point average and being his class Spelling Bee champion. The school balances competitive individual excellence with teamwork and collaboration. We have watched him thrive, be challenged and grow from the encouragement of his teachers and coaches. When issues emerged that merited our assistance and support, his teacher kept us respectfully informed. When his efforts merited recognition, it was enthusiastically acknowledged and provided. Resiliency in youth whether in education specifically or life in general, requires a balance of being challenged to actualize your potential and supported when you

reach its limits. My son is receiving this at Champion School and as his parents, my wife and I are appreciative and grateful.

In his poem " Four Quartets" T.S. Eliot writes , "*In my beginning is my end*…" a recognition of the vital importance of the first steps on any journey in setting one on a path towards future possibilities in achievement or consequences in regret. It is clear to me that the Champion School understands the importance of not just insuring students develop the foundation for solid academic skills for success in education but that they also should be given a love of learning by bright, creative and enthusiastic teachers. It is also important to develop a foundation for personal responsibility as a member of a classroom or a team for success as a responsible member of the community in living your life. This is of both personal relevance to me as a parent for my son and of social relevance to me as a social scientist, behavioral health professional, and citizen. As one of my favorite quotes observes " It's easier to build strong children than repair broken men…" My son attends the Champion School because I much prefer the former to the latter.

For these reasons and more I offer my strong and unconditional support for the Champion School application for renewal with the State of Arizona Board of Charter School. It is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow.

Sincerely,



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Jon H. McCaine, PhD.

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February 26, 2013

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Attention: Martha Morgan
1616 West Adams Street, Ste. 170
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Ms. Morgan:

It is with great honor and privilege that I submit this letter of support on behalf of Champion Schools. I have a son who attends Champion Schools' South Phoenix location. The academic emphasis coupled with the athletic enrichment the school offers has been an invaluable asset to my son and the entire Champion community. I am happy to report that my son is performing academically and has developed a love for "working out" that, without say, will benefit him for a lifetime.

As member of the Phoenix City Council and Vice President of the Cesar Chavez Foundation, I have firsthand knowledge of the importance of quality education for our families. It is my responsibility to ensure that our community has educational options that meet the needs of their families. Champion School provides our families the opportunity to choose quality education that focuses on the student and designs their programs to make sure they succeed. While engaging the student is a primary focus, they clearly understand that engaging the whole family through regularly scheduled academic fairs, athletic programs and community events, is what ensures their success.

In conclusion, I encourage you to renew Champions' commitment to families. It is important to have Champion Schools as a school of choice in our South Phoenix community.

If you have any questions and or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above listed number.

Sincerely,

Michael Nowakowski

Michael Nowakowski
Council Member, District 7