

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**May 2014****CONSIDERATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - COLUMBIA ASSUMING CHARTER SPONSORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONFLUENCE ACADEMIES IN ST. LOUIS****STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Section 160.400, RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 1:**

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

SUMMARY:

Confluence Academies Charter Schools are currently sponsored by Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). Missouri S&T has sponsored Confluence Academies since 2003, the only charter school in the Missouri S&T portfolio. Warren Wray, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Missouri S&T states, "The retirement of Missouri S&T's charter school sponsor liaison and the strategic focus of Missouri S&T no longer provides the appropriate capacity for it to serve in a charter school sponsorship role.

Moreover, the established charter school sponsoring capacity of the MU Office of Charter School Operations, the common charter school-sponsor contract of the University of Missouri Systems campuses, and MU's advantageously aligned strategic focus to support and forward the improving performance of the Confluence Academies charter school are strong justifications to accept this assumption of sponsorship notification."

The University of Missouri - Columbia (MU) currently sponsors KIPP Endeavor Academy and Ewing Marion Kauffman in Kansas City and Better Learning Communities, Carondelet Leadership Academy, Eagle College Preparatory Endeavor, and Jamaa Learning Center in St. Louis. MU has agreed to assume sponsorship of Confluence Academies starting with the 2014-2015 school year. MU has submitted a letter remaining "deeply committed to working with the students and families of St. Louis in supporting high quality public school options."

PRESENTER(S):

Dr. Curt Fuchs, Coordinator of Educational Support Services, will facilitate discussion of this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education approve the request for the University of Missouri - Columbia to assume the sponsorship of Confluence Academies Charter School starting with the 2014-2015 school year.

UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI

CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATIONS

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

April 24, 2014

Dr. Curt Fuchs, Coordinator & Director
Educational Support Services/Charter Schools
205 Jefferson Street
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Curt:

Please accept this letter to acknowledge the commitment of the University of Missouri-Columbia to serve as the charter school sponsor of Confluence Academies in St. Louis. We have worked closely with officials at Missouri University of Science and Technology the Board and Administration of Confluence Academies, and we commend all entities in providing excellent collaborations as we have worked out the details necessary for this assumption to occur.

MU is prepared and willing to assume the sponsorship duties and oversight needed, and to continue our close association with S&T, the Confluence Board of Directors and Administrative team and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in providing a smooth transition for Confluence Academies.

We all remain deeply committed to working with the students and families of St. Louis in supporting high quality public school options. We thank you for your assistance and support in this effort.

Sincerely,



Deborah L. Carr
Director

cc Cheryl B. Schrader – Chancellor, S&T
R. Bowen Loftin, Chancellor, MU
Warren K. Wray, Provost & Executive Vice-Chancellor, S&T
Mike Middleton, Deputy Chancellor – MU
Jeffery D. Cawfield, Vice Provost – Undergraduate Education
Daniel L. Clay, Dean – MU College of Education
Kelly Mescher, General Counsel - MU
Harvest Collier, Professor Emeritus, S&T
Deborah Carr, Director – Charter School Operations, MU
Sonya Henry, Board Chair – Confluence Academies





April 24, 2014

Dr. Curt Fuchs, Coordinator & Director
Educational Support Services/Charter Schools
205 Jefferson Street
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dr. Fuchs:

Through the collaborative agreement of the Missouri University of Science and Technology, the University of Missouri Columbia, and the Board of Directors of the Confluence Academies Charter School, this notification is presented to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a notification of the assumption of sponsorship of the Confluence Academies Charter School by one campus of Sponsor, The Curators of the University of Missouri, the University of Missouri Columbia (MU) from another campus, the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T).

The retirement of Missouri S&T's charter school sponsor liaison and the strategic focus of Missouri S&T no longer provides the appropriate capacity for it to serve in a charter school sponsorship role. Moreover, the established charter school sponsoring capacity of the MU Office of Charter School Operations, the common charter school-sponsor contract of the University of Missouri Systems campuses, and MU's advantageously aligned strategic focus to support and forward the improving performance of the Confluence Academies charter school are strong justifications to accept this assumption of sponsorship notification.

It is respectfully requested that acceptance of the above assumption of charter school sponsorship submission be acknowledged by the end of the 2013-2014 school year so as to best benefit planning and the progressive continued operation of the charter school.

Sincerely,

Warren K. Wray, Ph.D., P.E.
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,
Missouri University of Science and Technology

cc: R. Bowen Loftin, Chancellor, MU
Cheryl B. Schrader, Chancellor, S&T
Michael Middleton, Deputy Chancellor, MU
Jeffery D. Cawfield, Vice Provost - Undergraduate Studies, S&T
Daniel Clay, Dean of the College of Education, MU
Kelly Mescher, General Counsel, UM System
Harvest Collier, Professor Emeritus, S&T
Deborah Carr, Director - Charter School Operations, MU
Sonya Henry, Board Chair, Confluence Academies