

# Missouri Charter Public School Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 27, 2015

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## **MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SPONSORSHIP OF NEW KANSAS CITY CHARTER SCHOOL**

### **Citizens of the World Charter Schools - Kansas City to open in Midtown first charter school sponsored by Missouri Charter Public School Commission**

**Jefferson City, Missouri** --- Citizens of the World Charter Schools – Kansas City will open two schools in August 2016 serving 288 kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students in Midtown Kansas City, Missouri. Citizens of the World Charter Schools – Kansas City plans to add a grade each year, eventually providing a full kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade experience.

Citizens of the World Charter Schools - Kansas City's application was generated by a request for proposals issued from the Midtown Community Schools Initiative (MCSI), a parent and community based effort created to assure that residents have access to high quality and diverse public schools. The 2013 RFP stated:

*“Our neighbors are waiters and lawyers, university professors and college students, disabled veterans and corporate executives. Rather than seeking a school that accommodates one particular segment of society, the Initiative’s goal is to build a community school that reflects the socio-economic, racial and cultural diversity of our area, and that uses our diversity in a way that cultivates character and understanding in all of our children.”*

MCSI selected Citizen of the World Charter Schools’ proposal because it provides a high-quality public school option that matched the community’s vision.

The board of directors of Citizens of the World Charter School – Kansas City requested sponsorship from the Missouri Charter Public School Commission. “This is an excellent charter school application and will provide the Midtown families with a quality public school option. The Commission is proud to sponsor this intentionally diverse school. We look forward to the success of this school and the positive impact this school will have on the community,” said Alicia Herald, chairperson of the Missouri Charter Public School Commission.

“I knew when I heard from the parents and community members that this school was a match for Midtown. My excitement about the potential of this school grew when we interviewed the knowledgeable and dedicated community members who are serving on the board.” said Peggy Taylor, Commissioner. “This school will be successful because of the clarity of its mission, the quality of its partnership and the talent of its board.”

Charter schools are public schools that operate independent of their local district and are held to the same state standards as other public schools in Missouri. Sponsors review applications for quality and compliance to state statute, protect the school’s autonomy and hold the non-profit boards accountable on behalf of the public. This is the first school sponsored by the Missouri Charter Public School Commission, which was established by State statute. MCPSC members appointed by Governor Jay Nixon are: Susan Cole (Webster Groves), Deborah Curtis (Warrensburg), Alicia Herald (St. Louis City), Delbert Scott (Lowry City), Peggy Lea Taylor (Nixa), and John A. Wright (St. Louis City).

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