

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 8

DATE:

April 1, 2008

**RECOMMENDATION**

**REISSUANCE OF CHARTER – ANN ARBOR LEARNING COMMUNITY (K-8)**

**REISSUANCE OF CHARTER –**  
**HOPE ACADEMY (K-6)**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents reissue the charter for *Ann Arbor Learning Community* and authorize the president of the University to execute a new five-year contract which will expire June 30, 2013.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents reissue the charter for *Hope Academy* and authorize the president of the University to execute a new five-year contract which will expire June 30, 2013.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

**Ann Arbor Learning Community**

Ann Arbor Learning Community received its first charter in 1998 and a second one in 2003. This highly successful K-8 public school academy enrolls 211 students in its present Ann Arbor location. The Academy has exceeded state standards in MEAP results, has achieved “Adequate Yearly Progress” in the No Child Left Behind measures, and has maintained sound financial status and adequate yearly fund equity with annual revenues of approximately \$1.5 million.

**Hope Academy**

Hope Academy received its first charter in 1998 and was reissued a charter in 2003. This K-6 charter school in Detroit has an enrollment of 440 students. The school has annual revenues of \$3.9 million and has maintained an excellent fund balance by employing sound fiscal practices.

Accompanying this recommendation are profiles of the Ann Arbor Learning Community and Hope Academy.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

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University Executive Officer

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Date

## **ANN ARBOR LEARNING COMMUNITY**

The Ann Arbor Learning Community began as a K-6 school in 1998. It is presently a K-8 school that enrolled 211 students in 2007-08 with an average class size of 15. Approximately 60 percent of the student body resides in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area with the remainder coming from other communities throughout southeast Michigan. They represent a wide range of social and economic backgrounds.

The Ann Arbor Learning Community provides a student-centered, integrated curriculum. Its strong, basic core curriculum consists of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies supported by a stimulating, hands-on thematic approach of environmental education. All teachers are highly qualified and certified.

During the 2006-07 school year, Ann Arbor Learning Community was the recipient of three awards of distinction:

- ✓ National Charter School of the Year granted by the Center for Education Reform
- ✓ Achieved accreditation through NCA – CASI
- ✓ Recognized by Michigan Association for Public School Academies for “Closing the Gap” in the area of Outstanding Academic Achievement.

## **HOPE ACADEMY**

Hope Academy began its operation in 1998 with an enrollment of 288 students. It has since grown to a K-6 elementary school with an enrollment of 501 students in 2007-08, primarily from Detroit. The four core subject areas of language arts, math, science and social studies are broken down into grade-level expectations or exit skills. These exit skills provide much needed clarification for teachers in their development and implementation of daily lesson plans.

The “specials” or non-core subjects included within this framework are band, dance, drama, foreign language, health, life skills, physical education, technology, visual art and vocal music for the middle school; and art, drama, health, life skills, music, physical education and technology for lower and upper elementary. These classes represent a three-year course of study as students typically attend them less frequently, especially in the elementary grades. Over 90 percent of the students are considered low income and qualify for free or reduced lunch assistance.

Hope Academy continues to make Adequate Yearly Progress as mandated by the federal government’s No Child Left Behind Act. Hope Academy also continues to meet the State of Michigan’s mandate for education progress as outlined in the Education YES! initiative.