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OPTION FOR PARENTS CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) the Notice of Intent to Submit a Charter Application ("NOI") must be filed by the organizers of a proposed charter school to the Public Education Commission at the address below AND to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located. *Failure to notify may result in your application being rejected.*

This year the NOI must be submitted by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on the second Tuesday of January of the current year. Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission and the superintendent of the local school district by the deadline may result in the application being rejected. When you send the NOI to the superintendent of the school district in which your charter is to be located, you are strongly encouraged to send it by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact the local district regarding electronic filing.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered by one of the following methods:

- Electronically to: Linda.Olivas@state.nm.us
- By mail or personal delivery: PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
Attn: Ms. Linda Olivas, Administrative Assistant
Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
300 Don Gaspar, Room 301
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is intended to provide the Public Education Commission with the primary point of contact among the charter developers, and preliminary information about the charter proposal, such as the school's mission statement, the school's focus, target student population to be served, enrollment projections, key innovations, etc. (not to exceed 5 pages).

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1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

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|----------------------------|
| New Mexico Gateway Academy |
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- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

| Grade Levels to be | Projected Total Enrollment |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| K-12 | 1,500 |

- Primary Point of Contact

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|----|------------|-------|
| Name | Janet deVesty, Director Montano Land, LLC | | | | |
| Mailing | 1776 Montano Road NW | | | | |
| City | Los Ranchos de Albuquerque | St | NM | Zip | 87107 |
| Phone | (505) 938-7725 | | | | |
| Email | janet@unserracingmuseum.com | | | | |

2. Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on the applicant team, and qualifications of the team members to establish a high-quality charter school

| Name | Role on Team | Qualifications: Education, Employment, Experience |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| Susan Unser | Founding Council Member | Founder, Unser Racing Museum; Managing Board Member, Unser Discovery Campus, Inc.; Past and Present Governing Council Member of two NM Charter Schools; Co-Owner of the Bull Ring Restaurant in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Prior Secretary to the New Mexico Speaker of the House |

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g., performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM, Montessori, IB):

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| <p>The New Mexico Gateway Academy (NMGA) will be a full-time, online charter school that delivers a sequential program of both synchronous and asynchronous instruction from teachers to students primarily through the use of technology via the Internet in a virtual or remote setting. NMGA will provide a Career Pathways program or Career and Technical Education (CTE) program providing students with vocational and career readiness while achieving high academic performance that meets the rigorous New Mexico Content Standards and the New Mexico Common Core State Standards. NMGA will prepare students for college, career, and citizenship by providing them with the vision, motivation, and the practical and technical skills they need in a rapidly changing workplace and society.</p> |
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While students will have access to offline resources, the primary method of instruction will occur online. Students will access their courses and lessons, take assessments, and submit assignments and materials through the online school. Students and teachers will interact online in large group, small group and one-on-one sessions utilizing a web conference tool (e.g., Blackboard Collaborate). They will also communicate via telephone, email, instant messaging, and in person. Highly qualified teachers will be assigned to each course and be directly responsible for the engagement, instruction, and learning of their students. Teachers will work in conjunction with learning coaches (usually parents or guardians but can be any caring adult that the parent or guardian selects) to ensure student success. The Unser Discovery Campus will serve as the administrative offices and primary learning center for many of the Career Pathway activities. NMGA intends to work with business, industry, community colleges and other community entities throughout the state to make Career Pathway exploration activities, workshops and instruction readily available to students across the state.

In addition to its combined synchronous and asynchronous instructional model, NMGA will include comprehensive support and services programs as part of the total school experience. A well-organized and systematic onboarding plan will ensure students are engaged in all course content and actively participating in orientation and classroom activities. School staff will develop an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) for each student that will be based on a data-driven evaluation of where the student fits on a learning continuum between capable of achieving high school graduation and at risk of academic failure. School counselors will work closely with School staff to deliver a school wide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program through advisory sessions with students. Family Academic Support Team (FAST) members will provide ongoing communication with students and families, linking them to available resources such as community health care and social services as needed. Through this full-service school model, NMGA will provide the interventions and comprehensive support needed in both face-to-face and online learning experiences for students to graduate from high school and go on to reach their full potential in life.

A key component of the school will be the Career Pathways or Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Students will engage in an academic program that they find relevant to their future. This is especially critical for at-risk students who may have struggled with the learning process in the past. One of the most powerful means for achieving this objective of engagement is through Career and Technical Education. NMGA will look to the New Mexico College and Career Readiness Bureau (CCRB) and the New Mexico Association of Career and Technical Education (NMACTE) for guidance in designing the NMGA CTE program.

Career Pathways is a program that incorporates academic pathways based on the national Career Cluster model designed by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education. NMGA will explore instruction options and partnerships around six primary technical fields which incorporate the 16 pathways:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Business and Information Technology
- Family and Consumer Science
- Health Science
- Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship
- Technology and Engineering

School counselors will serve as the lead team member in developing the Individualized Learning Plans and counseling students through the Career Pathways program.

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4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation? Yes: No:

If YES, describe the entity and the role it will have in the school's operational plan.

The applicant does anticipate contracting with third parties for services as permitted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 22-8B-4(R), however, the contract providers will not manage or have "substantial oversight" of the charter school.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes: No:

Susan Unser serves on the governing council of a charter school. She will resign from that position if the charter application is approved and she is selected to serve as a member of the new school's governing body.

6. If the charter proposal is a replication, identify the school(s) you are replicating and the data that you have that support why this model should be replicated.

No, this proposal is not a replication of any other school.

7. Vision/Mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

The mission of NMGA is to provide a powerful model of effective public education that meets the individual needs of its grades K-12 students. NMGA will enable, inspire, and prepare students to achieve high academic standards in support of their individual goals and path in life. The vision of NMGA is that it will utilize an enriched online learning environment; a comprehensive curriculum offering with a CTE focus delivered on and offline; targeted instructional support by experienced teachers working in conjunction with learning coaches; and extended support services and community partnerships to boost student achievement and ensure school accountability. NMGA students will stay engaged in the academic process, graduate from high school, and make a powerful impact in their communities. Upon graduation, students will be prepared to continue their post-secondary education or go directly into the work force.

8. Student population and geographical setting of the school

- Define the targeted geographical area of the proposed school from which you expect to draw a significant number of your students.

NMGA will be open to any New Mexico student. The main campus and administrative offices are anticipated to be located at the Unser Discovery Campus in Albuquerque.

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- Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL, and special education populations).

As a public charter school NMGA will be available to any student eligible to attend public schools in New Mexico. We anticipate that, due to the individualized learning program offered by NMGA, the school will appeal to a wide range of students including, but not limited to, advanced learners, students who are struggling academically, students with special learning needs, students with limited options who may be currently attending a low-performing school, students interested in specific career options that are offered through NMGA's CTE program, and more.

- Identify where these students are most likely being educated currently and why they are expected to choose the proposed charter school for their future educational needs.

We anticipate that NMGA will appeal to a wide range of students throughout New Mexico. We project that the initial student enrollment will be public school students who, due to the rural nature of New Mexico, may face mobility and transportation obstacles, or whose parents believe that an individualized educational approach will benefit their child. This may include students whose parents are dissatisfied with their child's current educational setting because of academic rigor and/or flexibility, quality of instruction, and/or social and emotional issues. As an online charter school, NMGA is expected to attract students from across the state.

9. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for a school of the nature that will be proposed in the application (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program).

NMGA is intended to address the education needs of students across the state of New Mexico. Across the country, more students are taking online and blended courses than ever before. Keeping Pace, a report published for the past eleven years, in part sponsored by iNACOL (International Association for K-12 Online Learning), and recognized for its timely online education policy information, estimates 315,000 students attended fully online schools in SY2013-2014. The report goes state by state across the country reporting on the "state" of online learning in each one. About New Mexico, Keeping Pace reported that in 2014, there were "some opportunities" for online learning, the vast majority being supplemental courses offered through Albuquerque Public Schools' eCADEMY Virtual High School and the state's IDEAL-NM. Only two fully online schools were in operation in New Mexico in 2013-2014 serving less than 1,000 students. In the past two decades, NM school districts have dropped CTE trades and vocational classes. As well as meeting the demand for full-time online schools, NMGA will address the need for CTE course offerings while providing opportunities for earning dual credit and trade certifications to prepare for postsecondary education and careers after high school.

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10. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement in order to help it realize its vision / mission (e.g., non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.).

A key component of the school will be the Career Pathways or Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Middle school and high school students will engage in an academic program that they find relevant to their future. This is especially critical for at-risk students who may have struggled with the learning process in the past. One of the most powerful means for achieving this objective of engagement is through Career and Technical Education.

NMGA's instructional model will provide an individualized virtual education appropriate for students from kindergarten through grade 12. By enrolling students beginning in the elementary grades (K-5), NMGA is recognizing that data shows the clear benefit of persistence in virtual schools starting in the elementary years. Longer continuous enrollment generally correlates to higher academic achievement on state tests in both reading and mathematics. Students who stay in virtual public schools longer achieve higher percentages at or above the proficiency cut scores, while, in general, students who stay the least amount of time show the least increase in percentage at or above proficiency.

To further realize its vision/mission, NMGA will enhance its instructional model with additional support measures to provide a stable learning environment. A well-organized and systematic onboarding plan will ensure students are engaged in all course content and actively participating in orientation and classroom activities. Each student's Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) will be based on a data-driven evaluation of where the student fits on a learning continuum between capable of achieving high school graduation and at risk of academic failure. School counselors will work closely with School staff to deliver a school wide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program through advisory sessions with students. Family Academic Support Team (FAST) members will provide ongoing communication with students and families, linking them to available resources such as community health care and social services as needed. Through this full-service school model, NMGA will provide the interventions and comprehensive support needed in both face-to-face and online learning experiences for students to graduate from high school and go on to reach their full potential in life.

11. Describe how the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

NMGA will feature five (5) components that make the school unique and will improve student academic engagement:

- 1) Career Pathways Program – the career pathways program will be designed to engage students in selecting coursework that peaks their interest in a future career and makes coursework relevant. NMGA intends to develop partnerships with business and industry throughout the state to enhance curricular offerings and provide learning opportunities in the 6 primary clusters and 16 pathways that include workshops, internships and more.

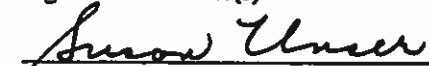
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- 2) **Individualized Learning** – a key component of the NMGA education program will be the individualized learning plan (ILP). Upon enrollment, school staff, led by the school counselors, will develop a customized ILP for each student. The ILP will be based on a review of the students' past academic records, input from the student and parent, and standardized test results. The ILP will address each student's unique strengths, weaknesses, learning styles and aptitudes. The ILP will also serve as a starting point for the Career Pathways Program by introducing the options and allowing students to identify and select a career pathway.
- 3) **Comprehensive Support Programs** – NMGA will not just offer online courses. The school will offer comprehensive services and programs that will include federal title programs (i.e. special education, ESL/ELL), student field trips, counseling services, social support services through community partnerships for students/families in need, onboarding services to orient students to online education and insure a quality start for students in the program.
- 4) **Rigorous and Flexible Curriculum Options** – the nature of online education allows for flexible instruction that addresses each student's specific learning style. Through the ILPs referenced above, NMGA will insure that each student is working in ways that enhance their learning experience.
- 5) **Parental Involvement** – NMGA understands that online learning is not the best educational setting for every child. The enrollment process will be designed to insure that families understand the demands of online learning. Students in elementary and middle school will require considerable levels of parental engagement. In high school, the NMGA staff will continue to work with parents as the students work towards the goal of becoming independent learners. NMGA teachers, staff and administration will communicate regularly with parents through email, phone, web-conferencing, face to face events, and mail. All NMGA staff will be available to meet with parents to address any concerns related to the school or the student.

In addition, NMGA will include an assessment and accountability program as an integral part of the academic program. This will include benchmark assessments at the beginning of the year; individual learning plans for each student; regular diagnostic performance assessments throughout the school year to measure growth; ongoing lesson, unit, and semester assessments to demonstrate mastery of the learning objectives in the curriculum; and New Mexico Statewide Assessment Program (NMSAP) tests to demonstrate that Academy students are meeting and exceeding the state learning standards.

Please Note: Should your charter be awarded, the founding governing body could undergo a background check to determine if it qualifies to be a board of public finance in the state of New Mexico.

Signature of founder(s)



SUSAN UNSER

Date: 1/12/15