

### **Abstract of Proposed Charter School:**

New Mexico School for Architecture, Construction and Engineering (NMACE)

Our vision is to create a new prototype for public high schools in New Mexico and the United States. Our school will be located in the Old Town/Saw Mill/Museum District of Albuquerque in order to provide access to young people from across the city. The school, and its programs, will give cutting edge construction specific learning by highly skilled teachers. NMACE is created based the premise that, given the appropriate design, we can significantly reduce the number of low income the students who currently do not graduate in Albuquerque. The school will capture their imagination and prepare them for college and work.

The assessments that we create for students will be based on “mastery” of skills and knowledge . They will also be public, high stakes, and authentic to the needs of employers and post-secondary education. We will be accountable for creating diplomas that have currency in the marketplace. We will also engage in the non-profit and governmental sectors to build a network of support for these young adults. The partnerships will be created to encompass their comprehensive needs (social and emotional, academic, and health) which will be critical for them to succeed in a challenging and intellectually stimulating school and in life.

Our commitment will go beyond graduation and through a successful transition to work and/or college and beyond as we help our graduates establish a professional network of support to advance their careers. We envision an initiative with three distinct yet complementary missions:

#### **High School:**

325 students in grades 9-12 who are matriculating directly from middle school

1. A year-round calendar with six weeks of ongoing professional development, interim and summer school and extended day programs to help students develop their academic skills
2. A dual enrollment and/or apprenticeship program for all graduates,
3. A focus on “positive youth development” through mentorship provided by faculty and through partnerships with community members and agencies working with young people.
4. A robust alumni network that is organized by the school that can create economic opportunities for its members

#### **Dropout Re-engagement Program:**

Students ages 16-21 (grades 10-12) who have left high school and have not graduated:

1. Credit evaluation to determine the clearest path to a diploma and academic skill evaluation to identify learning styles and the best instructional approaches tailored to fit individual student needs,
2. Access to social services to ensure comprehensive needs are met,
3. Diplomas that certify job readiness in the construction industry,
4. Placement in higher education or apprenticeship with follow through support by NMACE staff when appropriate

#### **Professional Development Center:**

Teachers and administrators will be Program Associates of the New Mexico School for Architecture, Construction and Engineering Professional Development Center that will provide an ongoing assessment of the school’s progress. Central to the Center’s work will be the opportunity for the highest level of teacher development that will be available to educators from around the state and nation.