

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

The ASK Academy – A STEM Innovation is a career pipeline developing the learner's Attitude, Skills and Knowledge (ASK) through learning seminars, 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, and project based experiences. The vision is to create an innovative learning culture for STEM students in grades 7-12, that will re-engage a culturally diverse population of learners into the learning process. The ASK Academy will develop the learners Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge as they apply New Mexico State core standards toward STEM career pathways. The four basic pathways are: (a) Civil Engineering & Architecture, (b) Computer Integrated Manufacturing, (c) Aerospace Engineering and (d) Biomedical Technology. The curriculum structure for these pathways comes from the National Engineering Program, "Project Lead the Way", (PLTW). [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org)

The ASK Academy will service the communities of Northwest Albuquerque and the city of Rio Rancho. The total 7-12 enrollment at its completion will not exceed 600 students. National data indicates that smaller schools educate much better than larger schools and more economical to operate; (NASSP Board of Directors, 1996) thus, The ASK Academy will maintain this small population.

The educational philosophy of The ASK Academy will be built on the academy, or corporate model; focusing the core standards toward STEM career pathways. In brief, learners will use a variety of resources to produce projects, products or services that have been developed by ASK teachers in collaboration with industry and university representatives. Core standards will be taught at just the right time for the student to apply toward these projects. Research show that when a learner applies the knowledge retention increases. (Gibbons, M, 2002) Relevant involvement from community, parents, and industry and university partners will make The ASK Academy's innovative STEM learning culture complete.

Everyone is a member of The ASK Academy and has a responsibility to the Academy as well as to their team mates. The health of the corporation will flourish through building relationships: focusing on TRUST, RESPECT & RESPONSIBILTIY. The ASK Academy will provide opportunities to develop creativity and critical thinking skills. Students' ownership in the learning process will be common place; however, individual accountability and evaluation will monitor their personal growth.