

Phoenix Project Community Development Foundation, Inc.

Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board

Letter of Intent to Open a Mississippi Charter School

January 22, 2014

Name of Proposed Charter School: Phoenix Early College Charter School at Co-Lin Community College

Grade Configuration: Phoenix Early College Charter School will have open enrollment for students in grades 9-12, ages 14-21, which live within the boundaries of Natchez-Adams school district.

Model or Focus: Early college high school

Early college high schools are schools affiliated with two- or four-year postsecondary institutions that permit students to take college courses while simultaneously earning their high school diplomas. An overall goal for all students will be the dual attainment of a high school diploma plus transferable college credits and / or post-secondary technical certifications up to the attainment of an Associate's Degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Early college high schools target populations that are underrepresented in higher education - those from low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, and first generation college students.

This charter school would be founded and sponsored by The Board of Directors of Phoenix Project Community Development Foundation. The Phoenix Project is in developmental conversations with the Administration of Copiah-Lincoln Community College of Natchez regarding placement of and partnership in this early college charter high school. The Phoenix Project Community Development Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit group of parents, business, and community leaders, dedicated to the possibility of an early college high school opportunity at Co-Lin Community College.

Primary Contact Person: Iretha Beyah

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District: Natchez-Adams

Proposed Leader: Not yet known

Replication: No

Contract with ESP: Phoenix Early College Charter School at Co-Lin Community College will be operated with a contractual agreement with Charter Pros, the consulting and management organization of Robertson Charter School of Decatur, Illinois. Charter Pros specializes in training, organizational development and professional development services that are tailored to each school, its challenges, and its people. Charter Pros offers a "cafeteria" of services from which the Board of Directors of Phoenix Project Community Development Foundation, Inc. will choose.

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Enrollment Projections:

Grade	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
9	75	75	75	75	75
9-10		75	75	75	75
9-11			75	75	75
9-12				75	75
Total #	75	150	225	300	300

Proposed Demographic: Like the national early college high school model, Phoenix Early College Charter School at Co-Lin Community College will target populations that are underrepresented in higher education - those from low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, and first generation college students. Phoenix Early College Charter School will maintain full compliance with the 80% required guidelines set forth under the Mississippi Charter School regulations.

Mission of School: The mission of Phoenix Early College Charter School at Co-Lin Community College is to provide a comprehensive, high-quality college preparatory education that develops character, leadership, and employability. The mission includes ensuring that every student achieves 21st century college, technology, and career skills while also gaining the character and leadership tools to be a productive member of society. Through an early college high school model, Phoenix Early College Charter School students will earn a high school diploma while simultaneously accruing post-secondary credits.

A brief overview of the educational program of the school: Phoenix Early College Charter School is dedicated to providing a diverse population of students with an outstanding education focused on college readiness and state proficiency. Phoenix Early College Charter School will implement a standards-based, college preparatory curriculum in our students' first two years, preparing them to be fully immersed into college courses their final two years. The curriculum is designed to ensure proficiency on state standards in English Language Arts, Math and Science as well as a 100% graduation rate. The curriculum will be fully aligned to the Common Core Standards being adopted nationally and with the Mississippi State Standards.

There will be 4 major themes to the Phoenix Early College Charter School curriculum and class structure:

- 1) Project Based Learning
- 2) Extensive Writing Practice
- 3) Higher Level Thinking Skills
- 4) Character and Leadership Development

Phoenix Early College Charter School envisions a school of substance that allows all students, especially the disenfranchised, often under-motivated student, to discover meaningful learning through short and long term goal setting, a college environment, and a rigorous and relevant curriculum.

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Board members for the school at this time:

Name: Banks, Jerolyn

Current Professional Title and Organization: Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Health Systems of Mississippi, Jackson MS; Private Practice, McComb MS (Masters Degree in Social Work, Jackson State University)

Board Role: Member

Focus / Expertise: Assessment, treatment and referral counseling services to children, teens and adults, and their families

Name: Beyah, Iretha

Current Professional Title and Organization: Administrative Assistant for Phoenix Project Community Development Foundation AOP program. Registered Tax Return Preparer. Small Business Owner (Associates Degree in Accounting, Co-Lin Community College; Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, University of Southern Mississippi)

Board Role: Member

Focus / Expertise: Business Administration

Name: Davis, Volley

Current Professional Title and Organization: Consultant with Southwest Mississippi Educational Consultants, Fayette, Mississippi (Masters Degree in Special Education Mental Retardation and Emotional Disturbance, Alcorn State University)

Board Role: Member

Focus / Expertise: Special Education

Name: Huston, Walter

Current Professional Title and Organization: Consultant / Consulting Firm Owner Phoenix Development Corporation of Fayette MS. Former Land Use Planner, Economic Development Director and Plans Grant Analyst (Associate Degree, Co-Lin Community College; Bachelors Degree University of Southern MS; MPA Program University of Phoenix)

Board Role: Member

Focus / Expertise: Grant Writing and Development

Name: Middleton, Claudine Starks

Current Professional Title and Organization: Retired MS school teacher / administrator; Town of Fayette Alderperson (Masters Degrees in Elementary Education, Alcorn State University; Educational Administration and Supervision, Alcorn State University)

Board Role: Member

Focus / Expertise: Education, teaching/administration/ staff development