



***e*Briefing: Update on Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy**

August 10, 2006

FACILITIES:

On August 1, 2006 Lewis Center employees, including Rick Piercy, President/CEO from the Lewis Center for Educational Research, met Mike Gallo, President/CEO and Erich Lewis of Kelly Space and Technology, Inc. for a tour of the proposed Charter School site. The technology team took copious notes related to the computer and Internet wiring of the site while others viewed the existing offices and discussed ways to turn them into classrooms.

The Mayor of San Bernardino has voiced support for the school. Rick Piercy and the Lewis Center's CFO Megan Curtis met with Teri Baker, assistant to San Bernardino's City Manager, Lemuel Randolph, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, and Jim Sharer, Director of Facilities Management to discuss the use of facilities for the charter school. The City of San Bernardino has been welcoming and enthusiastic as we begin the process of partnering with them for the benefit of school children.

CHARTER:

The California Department of Education charter start-up grant was submitted on July 18th, 2 days before deadline. Thank you to those of you who gave valuable input in the writing of the grant. Several have commented that the grant is strong and has an excellence chance of being awarded. Dr. Linda Scott-Hendrick helped to revise the mission statement. It is a much stronger mission statement now. I list it below for your review.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy (NSAA) is to provide opportunities for equal educational access to a culturally, linguistically, socially, and economically diverse population of students within a nurturing, participatory educational environment aligned to academic standards, based on high quality, research based teaching methods, and supported by public and private sector partnerships.

Letters just went out to member of the Founders/Developer board for scheduling the beginning of meetings to begin the nuts and bolts of planning the new charter school. Thank you to the new Founders/Developer board for your dedication in helping to make the school a reality.

Mr. John Lewis, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Director, Government Relations
Mr. Mike Gallo, President, Kelly Space & Technology, Norton / San Bernardino International Airport (SBIA)
Mr. Richie Allen, President, Operation Second Chance, After School Programs
Ms. Frances Grice, President/CEO, ADF networking Consultancy, Inc., San Bernardino
Dr. Linda Scott-Hendrick, Graduate School of Education, University of California, Riverside

Mr. Phillip Cothran, Allard Engineering, Fontana
Mr. Dan Scanlon, President, Certified Aviation Services, LLC. Norton / SBIA
Mr. Joe Ermalovich, Aero Pro, Norton / SBIA
Ms. Judith Battey, Inland Action, Norton / SBIA
Dr. Allan Ross, Wireless Telematics, La Jolla
Dr. Don Averill, Chancellor, San Bernardino Community College District
Ms. Athena Waite, Director of Teacher Education, University of California, Riverside

If you are interested in being a part of the planning group, please email me with your contact information at cthompson@lcer.org.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Algebra a Gateway to Higher Learning -- and Bigger Earnings –The Stockton Record, August 4, 2006
<http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060804/NEWS01/608040335/1001>

"My task is to change their attitude about math and science and get them excited about that," said Viji Sundar, a California State University, Stanislaus, professor.

For the past 14 years, Sundar has led summer programs aimed at encouraging students to pursue math-based

This year, her Pre-freshman Enrichment Program targets future students of the Early College High School, an Aspire Public Schools charter campus set to open in partnership with the university later this month.

Strict Standards for Charter Schools – The San Jose Mercury News, August 4, 2006; Letter to the Editor by Rich Garcia, president, San Jose Unified School District Board of Education
<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/opinion/15178719.htm>

San Jose Unified School District's Board of Education is obligated to review charter school applications based upon the quality of the charter's educational program and the district's longstanding commitments to students and parents.

Charter petitions are evaluated on 17 stringent requirements designed to ensure proposed programs are "reasonably comprehensive." Our board of education will deny charter petitions lacking quality educational programs, failing to meet federal standards for English learners, lacking any basis in educational research, and relying on inexperienced interns to deliver instruction. Most important, the district will continue to ensure that English-learning students are not isolated from their English-speaking peers.

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