

**Letter of Intent Form**  
**Change in Authorizer Request**

A charter school currently operating in the state of Indiana may apply to Education One, LLC. for a change in authorizer request. The school must complete and submit this Letter of Intent Form, including all attachments, prior to submitting an initial proposal to Education One. All necessary documentation may be submitted via email to:

Lindsay Omlor  
omlor@trine.edu  
Managing Director, Education One, LLC.

*Note: Submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) does not obligate a school to submit an initial proposal to Education One. However, schools should be advised that the LOI is subject to Indiana's Public Access Laws, including public records requests.*

| Name of Charter School       |
|------------------------------|
| Career Academy of South Bend |

| Mailing Address                         |                   |                    |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Street Address:<br>3801 Crescent Circle |                   |                    |
| City:<br>South Bend                     | State:<br>Indiana | Zip Code:<br>46628 |

| Board Chair Contact Information       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Name:<br>Larry Garatoni               | Email:<br>Larry.Garatoni@hqinvestments.com |
| Office Phone:<br>574-271-5145 ext 200 | Cell Phone:<br>574-276-1940                |

| School Leader Contact Information |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name:<br>Paul Schlottman          | Email:<br>pschlottman@careeracademysb.com |
| Office Phone:<br>574-339-4133     | Cell Phone:<br>219-263-3458               |

| History of School                       |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Year of Opening:<br>2011                | Current Authorizer:<br>Ball State University    | Charter Renewal Year:<br>2016 |
| Education Service Provider/EMO:<br>None | Number of Years with ESP/EMO:<br>Not applicable |                               |

| School Information   |                             |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Current Grade Levels Served:<br>Grades 5-12  | Current Enrollment :<br>525 | School District Where the School is Located:<br>South Bend Community |
| <p><b>Brief Description of School:</b><br/>           The Career Academy emphasizes project-based learning, relevance and relationships. Students are encouraged to learn about potential careers through contact with local businesses. The stress is upon education as preparation for life. While academic success is important, the starting point is for students to understand that learning to work hard, work in teams, and develop problem-solving skills is vitally important to preparing for successful and happy lives.</p> |                             |  |

**Required Attachments**

In addition to completing the information requested above, please also submit the following attachment:

1. **Board Letter:** A letter, signed by the charter school board chair, that includes the following information:
  - Brief explanation for why the charter school board would like to change authorizers
  - Brief statement verifying that the school is in good academic standing, or has shown significant improvement results, as illustrated by the Indiana State Assessment Proficiency Results
  - Brief statement verifying that the school is in stable financial health, and is also in good financial standing with the current authorizer
  - Brief statement verifying that the school has a history of compliance with all applicable laws and its current charter

*NOTE: This letter should not exceed two (2) pages in length.*

**South Bend Career Academy**  
**3801 Crescent Circle**  
**South Bend, IN 46628**  
**(574) 299-9800**

November 24, 2014

Lindsay Omlor  
Director of Charter Schools  
Trine University  
One University Avenue  
Angola, Indiana 46703

Re: request for change of authorizer

Dear Ms. Omlor:

Career Academy of South Bend requests that Trine become its authorizer as soon as possible.

Reason For Change. While our charter agreement with Ball State University does not expire until 6/30/2016, we would like to make changes before then which BSU is apparently unwilling to approve. First, we want to divide, effective immediately, into a high school (grades 9-12) and middle school (grades 5-8), to conform to how public schools in St. Joseph County are organized and to establish a more independent identity for our middle school. Second, we want to establish independent primary (K-4) schools at three locations in South Bend opening in Fall of 2015 and an additional two K-4 schools opening in Fall of 2016. These changes are integral to our overall goals:

- To offer the children in St Joseph County (particularly the west side of South Bend) an opportunity to have a positive school experience and an excellent relevant education.
- To counter the “skills mismatch” between young people and local employers by preparing young people with the job skills and character traits necessary for success in high-skill, high-pay jobs that will strengthen South Bend’s economy.
- To demonstrate that a school can be successful both by academic standards and in its practical effect on student lives for students from relatively disadvantaged backgrounds.
- To positively impact the South Bend Community School Corporation by serving as a model of how schools can be improved.

Good Academic Standing. The Career Academy has had significant academic improvement over its first three years of operation, but the reality of urban charter schools is that students generally start at well below grade level, resulting in low passing rates. Students arriving at the Career Academy typically are at reading and math proficiency levels two or three years behind, reflecting

conditions in the South Bend Community School Corporation schools.<sup>1</sup> As shown by the IDOE COMPASS website, <http://compass.doe.in.gov/dashboard/istep.aspx?type=school&id=7564>, the Career Academy's ISTEP passing rates are still unacceptably low, but passing rates have improved significantly in each year of operation, and the 11.8% improvement in 2013-14 is one of the highest rates of improvement among Indiana schools.<sup>2</sup> The Career Academy expects substantial additional improvement in the future, and has taken measures to that end such as the hiring of experienced "master teachers" and the implementation of improved teaching methods as detailed in the Student Achievement Plan submitted to the IDOE and BSU in March, 2014.

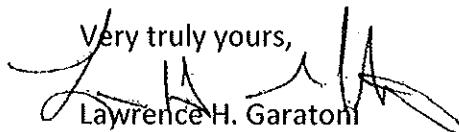
Financial Health. The Career Academy's income (primarily state tuition revenue) has not met its expenses in its first three years of operation, nor will it do so for 2014-15. High schools are expensive to operate, especially with vocational programs and project-based learning (including extensive Project Lead The Way courses). Fortunately, the Career Academy is supported by the Garatoni Family Foundation, a major private foundation in St. Joseph County.<sup>3</sup> The school plans to increase its operating income to meet its expenses by the following steps:

- In the fall of 2015, open three K-4 schools on the west side of South Bend with a total enrollment of 375 children, and in the fall of 2016, open two more K-4 schools, resulting in total K-4 enrollment of 600 students. In addition to education benefits, these K-4 schools will have financial benefits (for all school systems, elementary schools are less expensive to run, and state tuition is higher in comparison to expenses).
- Increase enrollment in grades 5 through 8 to 600 students and increase enrollment in grades 9-12 to 600 students. Aside from the fact that lower grades are less expensive, the increased scale will better cover the school's fixed expenses.

While we cannot document that BSU considers us in good financial standing, BSU's confidence in our financial strength is demonstrated by BSU having asked us to take over another charter school which is experiencing financial problems.

Compliance With Laws And Charter. Neither the IDOE nor BSU have informed the Career Academy of any non-compliance with federal or state law or the existing charter agreement.

Please feel free to contact Paul Schlottman or me for further information.

Very truly yours,  
  
Lawrence H. Garatoni  
Board President

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2010, SBCSC ranked 288 of the 292 Indiana school systems in the percentage of students passing the English and math ISTEP tests: only Hammond, Gary, Indianapolis and East Chicago were lower. Indianapolis Star, 7/12/2011, [http://www.indystar.com/article/20110713/NEWS04/107130324/ISTEP-improvement-not-much?odyssey=mod\\_sectionstories](http://www.indystar.com/article/20110713/NEWS04/107130324/ISTEP-improvement-not-much?odyssey=mod_sectionstories).

<sup>2</sup> See data at Indianapolis Star <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2014/08/04/interactive-db-istep2014/13485211/>.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://nccsweb.urban.org/PubApps/geoShowOrgs.php?id=C18141&Code=C18141&V=Pf&Src=County>.