

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPACT

“A star
DOES NOT
COMPETE
with other stars
around it;
it just
SHINES.”

— MATSHONA DHLIWAYO

Shining Bright for Kids

“Why fit in when you were born to **stand out?**” — DR. SEUSS

FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES:

We believe greatness lies within each person. We love people and are passionate about helping them grow and discover their gifts.

This is one reason why we are fans of the award-winning book by Dr. Todd Rose, *The End of Average: How We Succeed in a World That Values Sameness*. It's full of insightful stories and profound truths like, “**The hardest part of learning something new is not embracing new ideas, but letting go of old ones.**”

At the National Charter Schools Institute, our goal is to spread what works and help people let go of the things that do not. We've come to see how “**demanding accountability**” is sometimes

counterproductive to achieving excellence and fostering the kinds of schools we want and need. Thanks to Dr. Rose, we better understand the implications of “**when you design for the average, you design for no one.**”

As we move forward, we are going to do even more to advance excellence and **inspire, equip, and support** people and organizations to achieve breakthrough performance.

Please know our team is ever grateful for your continued support and encouragement. Together, we are making a difference for our kids and our country!

With Best Wishes,



W. Sidney (“Sid”) Smith
Board Chair



James N. Goenner, Ph.D.
President & CEO

“I love how the Institute’s events always focus on ideas and possibilities...they make you think and aspire to do more!”

— KURT AEY | Director of Community Schools | Lake Erie West Educational Service Center

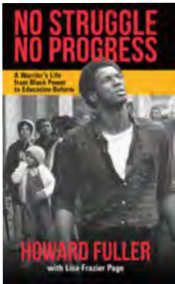
Our National Impact

Our core purpose is to inspire and democratize excellence in education. We want all students to have the opportunity to discover their gifts and experience the joy of learning. That’s why we are so passionate about our mission.

Through our hands-on coaching and consulting work, we are able to share powerful ideas, strategies, tactics and tools that people can put into action. Our work has taken us across the nation - from Washington D.C. to Wisconsin to Hawaii and from Florida to the State of Washington.

And wherever we go, we never miss an opportunity to educate and remind people that “chartering” is fundamentally about reimagining and redesigning public education so it works better for our kids and our country.

“The Institute has proven to be a knowledgeable and trusted partner for our own organization as well as for the schools throughout the state. They truly get the authorizer-board-school relationship and go the extra mile to help achieve our goals.” — SARAH HACKETT | Director | Wisconsin Resource Center for Charter Schools



No Struggle No Progress by Howard Fuller



Howard Fuller, Ph.D. Director of the Institute for the Transformation of Learning, Distinguished Professor of Education, Marquette University



Deborah M. McGriff, Ph.D. Former Chair of the NAPCS Board, Managing Partner, New Schools Venture Fund



2018 Advocates & Implementers Event Jim Goenner, Caprice Young, and Kevin Chavous



2019 Advocates & Implementers Event Deborah McGriff, Ken Campbell, and Sarah Tantillo



Ken Campbell Executive Director, Southern Louisiana Idea Public Schools



Sarah Tantillo, Ed.D. Managing Director of Humanities, Great Oaks Legacy Charter Schools

Advocates & Implementers

We love shining the spotlight on outstanding leaders. People willing to speak up and take action. We admire their courage, their ideas, and their willingness to toil in the trenches and get the work done.

That’s why we annually host our “Advocates & Implementers” event in conjunction with the National Charter Schools Conference. It’s our way of honoring these individuals and providing inspiration to others. And we can never say thank you enough to Dr. Howard Fuller for blessing us each year with his heartfelt rendition of Frederick Douglass’ 1857 speech, “If There Is No Struggle, There Is No Progress.”

“I am profoundly grateful to the Institute for their leadership and for allowing me to share my “insider’s account” with their national following of Advocates & Implementers.”

— SARAH TANTILLO | Author | Hit the Drum



Authorizers on Their “A-GAME”

MOVING BEYOND ONE-SIZE FITS ALL

The proud winner of a three-year U.S. Department of Education grant, the Institute is working with leading authorizers across America to develop and disseminate models for supporting and evaluating the performance of alternative schools serving students with the greatest needs.



“Students across the country who need high-quality educational opportunities are going to benefit from the forward-thinking strategies, models and tools this grant is developing for authorizers.”

— DAVID FRANK
Executive Director | Charter School Office | New York State Department of Education



"This grant aims to move beyond one-size-fits-all accountability models by equipping authorizers with the strategies and tools they need to oversee and support schools serving students with the greatest needs."

— NAOMI RUBIN DEVEAUX
Vice President for Authorizing & Accountability | National Charter Schools Institute

The National Authorizer Leadership Team:



California



Minnesota



Ohio



Illinois



Michigan



District of Columbia



Michigan



Florida



Nevada



New York



Michigan



Colorado



New York

Ideas Worth Spreading

TEDX BOWLING GREEN

The Institute's Jim Goenner and Ray O'Laughlin delivered compelling and thought-provoking talks at a TEDx event themed - MINDSET SHIFT - hosted by Bowling Green State University.



Jim Goenner
Changing the Game in Education

Ray O'Laughlin
Taking Personal Responsibility

TED is a global community of learners seeking to better understand the world. Like the mission of TED, the Institute “believes passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives, and ultimately the world.”

You can view Jim's talk called *Changing the Game in Education*, and Ray's talk *Taking Personal Responsibility*, at www.CharterInstitute.org/Presentations.

If you're looking for more inspiration, a few of our favorite TED talks are:

- › Sir Ken Robinson: Do Schools Kill Creativity?
- › Dr. Brene' Brown: The Power of Vulnerability
- › Dr. Todd Rose: The Myth of Average



Working Together to Advance Quality



CSP GRANT

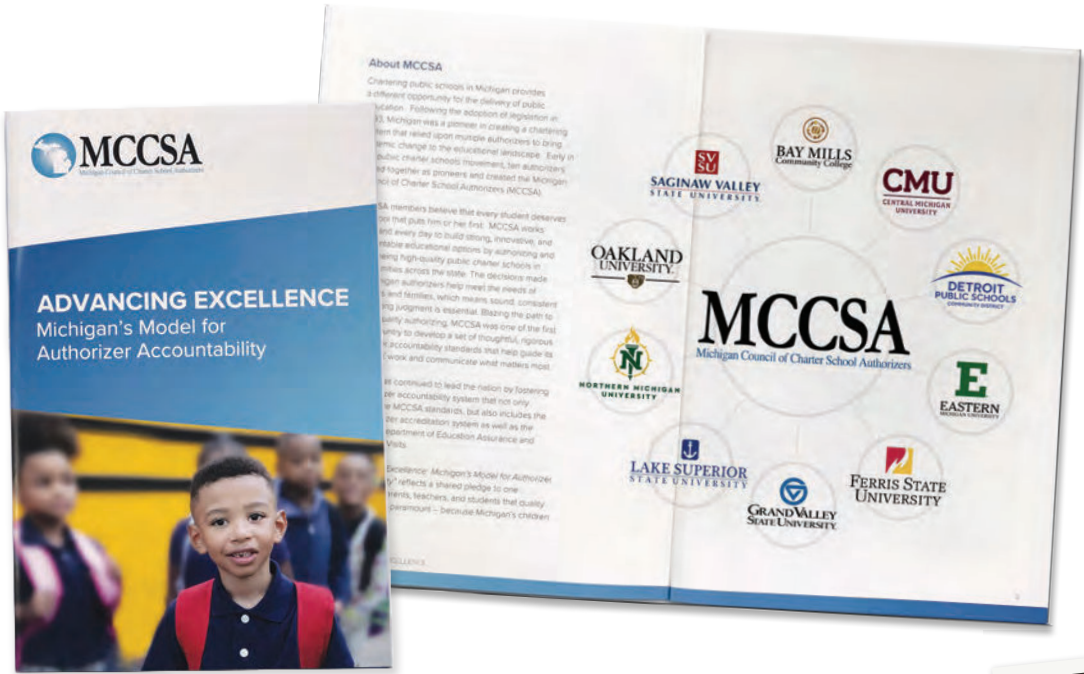
Michigan’s Department of Education won a five-year \$47 million federal charter schools program grant from the U.S. Department of Education. These funds are awarded at the state level through a competitive process to applicants seeking to open, replicate, or expand high-quality charter public schools.

In partnership with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the Institute brought together a team of state and national experts to conduct a risk-assessment of each application. Constructive feedback is given to each applicant and their authorizer, so that they can reflect, revise and strengthen their proposal.

The grant also made it possible for the Institute to facilitate four Authorizer Roundtables in different regions of the state. These outreach efforts were a collaborative effort with the MDE and the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers to share best practices and improve quality.

“Engaging the Institute has strengthened our coordination and communication with Michigan’s authorizers. Together, we are raising the bar and focusing on quality.”

— TAMMY HATFIELD | Manager | Public School Academies Unit | Michigan Department of Education



Review Teams in Action



Board Recruitment & Orientation Videos



When Michigan’s policymakers adopted charter school legislation in 1993, they put in motion a bold strategy for advancing public education.

Now, a strong group of authorizers are guiding Michigan’s charter strategy forward. Together, they form the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers and are at the forefront of fostering change and advancing excellence, while balancing school autonomy with public accountability.

The Institute has been privileged to work with the Council over the last year to refine its strategic plan and adopt a set of guiding principles. And with grant funding from the state, the Institute and the Council joined forces to publish *Advancing Excellence: Michigan’s Model for Authorizer Accountability*, along with two board orientation videos designed to help new charter school board members hit the ground running.

View these videos at <https://www.michiganauthorizers.com/become-a-new-board-member> and <https://www.michiganauthorizers.com/board-resources>.

“The Institute is helping our Council become more strategic, more proactive, and more focused on our principles and priorities.”

— DR. ROBERT KIMBALL | Board Chair | Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers | Associate Vice President for Charter Schools | Grand Valley State University

Supporting Authorizers



“The Institute’s team is first-class. They contextualized their content and experiences to meet the needs of Hawaii’s unique and diverse culture. And they earned the respect of our commissioners, our authorizing team, and the governing board members and leaders of the schools we charter.”

— SIONE THOMPSON
Executive Director | Hawaii State Public Charter Schools Commission

“Authorizers face a paradox: They are being encouraged to take chances and charter more schools, while being pressured to raise standards and close schools that don’t measure up.”

— DR. JIM GOENNER

Great authorizers are change agents. They create the conditions for innovation and excellence to thrive. They empower and encourage. They protect students and taxpayers. And they ensure results are achieved.

We love working with authorizers at the Institute, and we recognize how important their role is to the success and sustainability of the charter schools movement.

We understand charter laws vary by state – and these variances greatly impact the work of America’s 1,015 active authorizers. The Institute always seeks to understand an authorizer’s context. That way we offer real solutions that are both strategic and doable.

Powering Performance & Productivity

CONNECTING AUTHORIZERS-BOARDS-SCHOOLS

Epicenter is our cloud-based platform that leading authorizers, boards, schools and networks are using to expand their capacity and increase their productivity. It streamlines compliance and reporting, puts data and documents at your fingertips 24/7/365, and shares information in a way that creates synergy and fosters collaboration.

BUILDING TRUST & CONFIDENCE

Schools and boards want to know if they are in good standing with their authorizer. Authorizers need to demonstrate they are overseeing and holding their schools and boards accountable. Everyone wants the standards to be clear and transparent.

PERSONALIZING AUTHORIZING

Epicenter moves you beyond one-size-fits-all approaches, so you can create an environment of shared responsibility. With Epicenter’s Scorecard, you can ensure performance conversations stay focused on the facts and keep everyone striving for continuous improvement.





“As the sponsor of the nation’s first charter public school law, I am proud to see the Founders Library gaining momentum. Like chartering, it began with a vision and will grow into a lasting legacy.”

— EMBER REICHGOTT JUNGE
Author, Advocate and former Minnesota State Senator

THE NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS FOUNDERS LIBRARY

One of the earliest and most influential thinkers and writers on the idea of chartering was Minnesota’s Ted Kolderie. From encouraging people to “challenge the givens,” to showing policymakers why it was essential for them to “withdraw the districts’ exclusive franchise,” Ted’s ideas have had a big impact.

We are proud to say that the National Charter Schools Founders Library is now home to Ted’s work – and the work of many other key leaders. The Founders Library is housing and making the records and oral histories from our movements’ founders digitally accessible to all.

Teaming up with Ember Reichgott Junge - former Minnesota State Senator and sponsor of the nation’s first charter school law - we are on a quest to capture and share the origins and growth of chartering so we can learn from the past and chart an even brighter course for our children’s future.

This past year we focused on capturing the stories from key founders in California and Colorado, along with national leaders like Howard Fuller and Joe Nathan. You can watch their oral histories at www.CharterInstitute.org/Library. We’re sure you’ll agree that the wisdom, insights and lessons they share are for the ages.



Ember Reichgott Junge interviewing former Colorado Governor Bill Owens



Ember Reichgott Junge, Eric Premack, Sue Burr, and Gary Hart recording California's charter origins

Developing Boards



GOVERNING FOR GREATNESS

Governing boards play a vital role in the success and sustainability of charter schools. They serve as guardians of the public trust, which is a big responsibility.

We know board members freely give their time and talents. And we want everyone who serves to have a meaningful and rewarding experience. That’s why we specialize in helping boards effectively govern and win for kids.

Our newest book, *Leading for Greatness*, will be released this fall. It will provide school leaders and board members with a roadmap for modeling excellence and creating a win-win working relationship.

“Boards that govern for greatness ask wise questions and measure things that truly matter.”

— MARK WEINBERG | Vice President for Leadership & Learning | National Charter Schools Institute



“Engaging the Institute to facilitate our Board’s strategic planning process was a great decision. They helped us confront issues, gave us honest and candid feedback, and helped us unify as a team.”

— ANDY ALT | Board President | West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics



Strengthening Schools

Working hands-on with schools brings us great joy. Schools are where the real teaching and learning occurs. We know education transforms lives. That's why it's magical for us to see the light bulb of learning turn on for a student.

We understand running a school and leading a classroom is hard work. But it's where the real action is. And it's why we are so passionate about supporting schools. Whether you're looking for assistance with strategy or operations, problem solving or capacity building, our team of experienced experts are ready to help you succeed.



“The coaching and support I’ve received from the Institute’s team of experts has been a game changer for my leadership, professional growth, and the Academy as a whole. Their team has been instrumental in the developing of organizational and operational systems that are positively impacting what is happening for Abney’s scholars and families. Through our partnership, I know their expertise, support and advice is only a phone call away.”

— PAUL ADAMS
School Leader | William C. Abney Academy

Coaching Teachers

THE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
Our friends at The Institute for Excellence in Education (IEE), are pros at coaching teachers and school leaders. They understand schools are complex human systems that require dynamic solutions. And they specialize in helping leaders build ownership and engagement with both students and teachers.

Teachers especially love working with IEE because they truly understand the challenges of the classroom. They are capacity builders. Always current with the latest research, they know how to listen and learn about your vision and goals. Then they work alongside you to craft real solutions that will foster a culture of learning, lift up students, and improve outcomes.

To learn more, visit www.ExcellenceInEd.org.



“Engaging. Practical. Mind Changing. That’s how I’d describe IEE’s professional development and coaching!”

— DAVID PATTERSON
Superintendent | Charlton Heston Academy



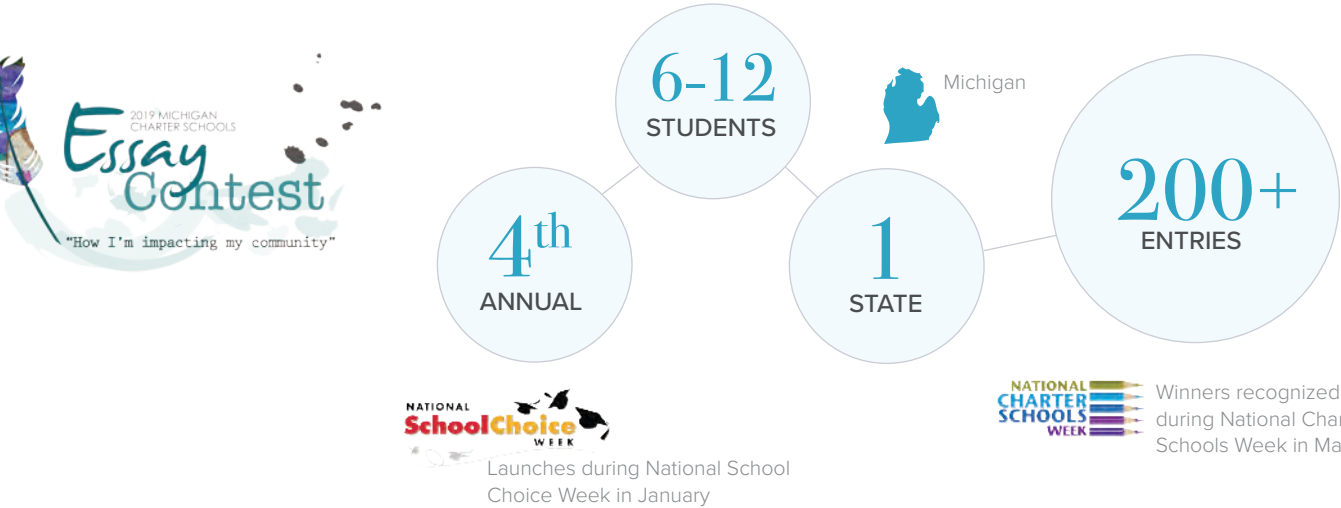
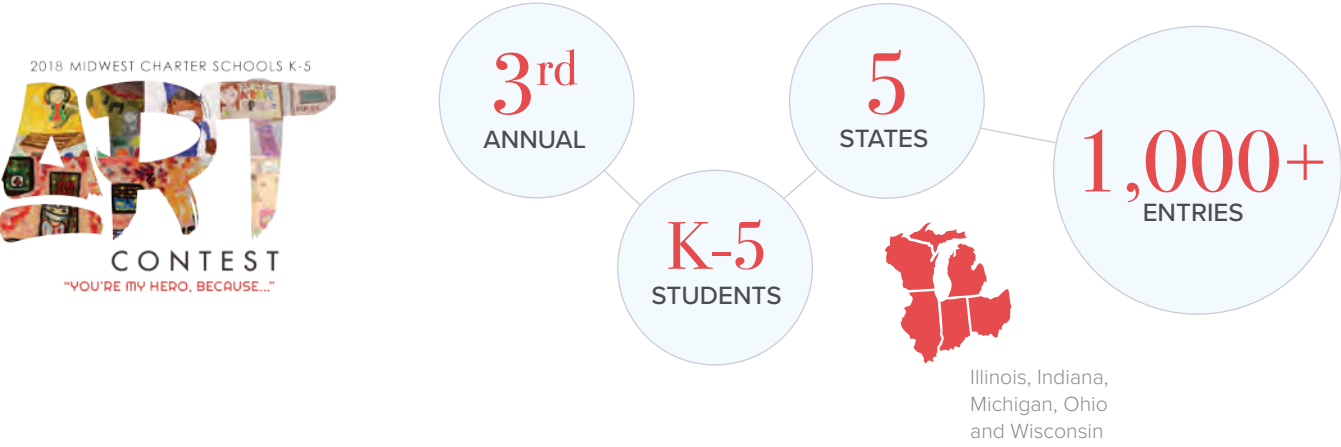
Changing the
CONVERSATION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COACHING



Encouraging Students

We want all kids to DREAM BIG! And we want them prepared to go achieve their dreams. That’s why we annually sponsor art and essay contests, so students can practice sharing their gifts and telling their stories. Honoring and showcasing their work always brings us great joy!





Visit www.CharterInstitute.org/ArtContest and www.CharterInstitute.org/EssayContest to view the complete collection of winning artwork and essays.



Our art judges looking through the entries of the 2018 Art Contest: "You're My Hero, Because..."

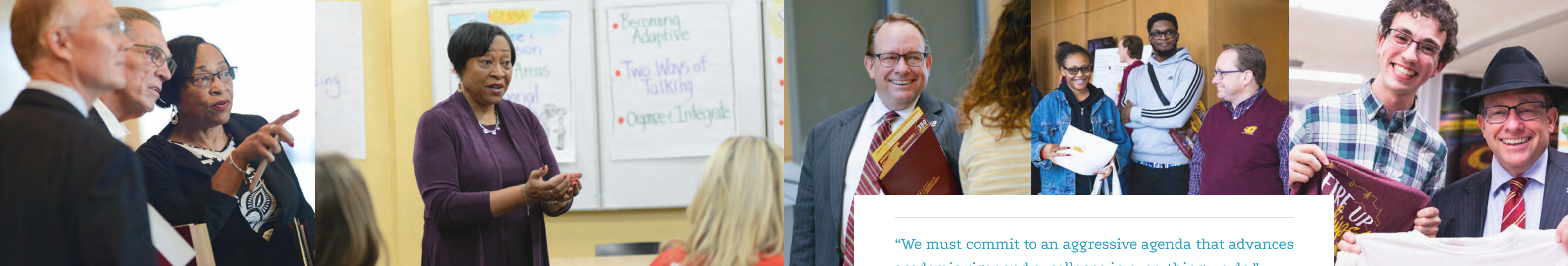


Fall 2018 Artwork

3-5 GRADES	K-2 GRADES
 <p>1 Aisha Fair Noble Academy Columbus 5TH Grade</p>	 <p>2 Ria Bakshi Cambridge Lakes Charter School 4TH Grade</p>
 <p>1 Leia Ramos Horizon Science Academy Lozain 2ND Grade</p>	 <p>2 Donatella Jackson West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science 2ND Grade</p>

2019 Essay Contest middle school winner, Elijah Smith, from Light of the World Academy, recording his story about impacting his community





“We must commit to an aggressive agenda that advances academic rigor and excellence in everything we do.”

— DR. ROBERT DAVIES | President | Central Michigan University

Meet the Institute’s Newest Board Members

CAROLYN MCKANDERS

Carolyn McKanders began her career as a teacher in Detroit. Now she travels the world sharing her wisdom and expertise.

Carolyn is an internationally recognized expert in Adaptive Schools, Cognitive Coaching, and Polarity Management. Passionate about the unlimited capacity of the human spirit, Carolyn helps cultivate stronger human relationships through better communication, collaboration and skills development.

Carolyn earned two master’s degrees – one from Eastern Michigan University and one from the University of Michigan. She and her husband Ken reside in Arizona. They have four children and were recently blessed with a beautiful granddaughter.



“Carolyn McKanders has a heart for kids. She is a people builder...and her influence can be seen in classrooms around the world.”

— SHERRY LAMBERTSON
Executive Director,
The Institute for Excellence
in Education

CMU PRESIDENT ROBERT O. DAVIES

Bob Davies hit the ground running when the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees unanimously appointed him to serve as the University’s 15th President. As a believer in the transformative power of education, Bob is more than willing to challenge the status



quo. His outgoing leadership style and enthusiasm for CMU is contagious.

With his wife Cindy, and daughter Katie, the Davies’ personify CMU’s core values: wisdom, virtue, and friendship. Before coming to CMU, Bob served as president of Murray State University and Eastern Oregon University. His Ph.D. in higher education administration is from The State University of New York at Buffalo.



“Bob Davies is a difference maker. His energy is contagious... and his love for students and education makes him a perfect addition to the Institute’s Board.”

— W. SIDNEY SMITH
Board Chair, National
Charter Schools Institute

Our Board & Leadership

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Sharon Wise

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Our Team

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Specialist



Casey Truelove
Client Support
Specialist



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Coordinator

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Board Policies



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Board Policies



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Board Policies



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Board Policies






Dustin Sommer
School Facilities



Kim Wells
Academic Performance



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711 WEST PICKARD STREET, SUITE M, MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858
(989) 317-3510 | WWW.CHARTERINSTITUTE.ORG