Evelyn Ann Charter Institute

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”* –Aristotle

Evelyn Ann Charter Institute aims to open and operate one school in the fall of 2018 with a freshman class only of 300 students, adding three additional freshmen class each year for a total of 1200 students in the 34th Ward on the far South side of Chicago. EACI’s targeted At Risk communities are West Pullman, and parts of Roseland and Morgan Park that are within the zip codes of 60643 and 60628. 0.2% of the students have "limited English proficiency,” 98% of the students are classified as "economically disadvantaged,” 94% are paying reduced lunch prices, and 99% of the students are African American. Multiple schools have closed due to poor performance and low enrollment. By targeting these areas, we intend to recruit a population that is racially diverse to increase enrollment as a result of the Wards realignment, and shall set a new high standard of success, lifting students to greater levels of achievement.

Evelyn Ann Charter Institute is a XQ Super School Semi Finalist who is bound by our mission, vision, core purpose, and values because they are the foundation of truths that we seek to develop our faculty, staff, and students. The mission of Evelyn Ann Charter Institute is to provide each student a diverse personalized education via a rigorous mastery curriculum in a safe, caring, and supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, excellence, and student responsibility for learning. Our vision is to provide our diverse student body with the best 21st century public Charter High School innovative and technological education up to and beyond graduation with experienced-high quality dedicated teachers, a challenging and rigorous curriculum, student academic recommendation reports, personal laptop computers, hands-on and individual learning, and college and career related internships that will allow students to advance at their own rate according to their personal interests and learning ability.

Additionally, EACI’s educational philosophy is that every student is entitled to a 21st Century career and college preparatory 9-12 public high school education that engages their minds and hearts to help narrow the educational achievement gap between economically challenged and wealthy students by preparing all students to successfully compete both nationally and globally, and positively impact their communities regardless of their race or economic status.

Further, the EACI team joins the parents and community in essence of fulfilling their immediate desired needs expressed in various community and faith based meetings to assist the students in developing skills to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in local and global communities. Thus, EACI’s Core Purpose is to transfer extraordinary abilities from one person to another person through teaching. In fulfilling our core purpose (model of Lehigh University), we seek to:   
• Develop leaders and inspire innovators through shared learning and life experiences, personal and intellectual development combined   
• Promote student success   
• For students: prepare them to engage in a world community, be good and productive citizens and instill value of high standards   
• For faculty: hold high expectations for quality of secondary education, training, scholarships, and creative work   
• For staff: expect high quality in everything we do   
• For alumni: be a lifelong resource and home to our graduates   
Core Values   
• Educational Excellence that furthers intellectual curiosity, creative, ethical and social development through a broad range of programs centered on the students personalized learning plans   
• Student-Focused Community that embraces mutual respect, collaboration and diversity for the welfare of the individual and the institution   
• Sense of Community/Collegiality - Our students build a community through leadership, volunteering,   
participation, networking, collaboration, and information sharing   
• Integrity and Ethical Behavior - Our student’s exhibit integrity and ethical behavior and commits to EACI Code of Ethics   
• Respect for Diversity - Our students respect the diversity of people, ideas and institutions

Thus, EACI plans to combine Chicago Public Schools Next Generation School model with Sir Ken Robinson’s philosophical belief which states and we strongly agree and believe, “Education doesn’t need to be reformed –it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not standardized education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individualized talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn, and where they can naturally discover their true passions.” For instance, Maiers (2011) contended there is still hope for failing schools to improve academically with School Improvement Grants (SIG) that requires local unions, administrators, teachers, students and parents to work together to achieve academic success and by implementing the Transformational and NGS models of utilizing technology in small student group learning to provide a rigorous and appropriate academic content and more learning time via individual instruction from the teacher and sharing knowledge with each other; increased professional development to enhance and retain highly qualified school staff; and more targeted reading that integrate academic services for both special needs students and English language learners. Thus, a high school in Iowa was failing with students ranking from the 25th to the 45th percentile (Maiers, 2011). After the school accepted the SIG, and utilized the transformational model the Iowa school’s overall student academic performance level escalated from last place to 2nd in their district (Maiers, 2011).

Finally, EACI Leadership, Charter School’s Board of Trustees and senior administration, and the applicant team for this proposal is comprised of high-capacity and experienced individuals with skill sets that demonstrate the capacity to establish and operate a successful charter school, including leadership, management, education, business, finance, human resources, engineering, and community organizing. Their deep involvement and commitment to this project provides oversight, enthusiasm, and capacity for success.We are committed to recruiting additional committed, active Board members who bring a range of experiences and expertise. The Board will meet once every three months (via face-to face meetings at the school); four times per school year to ensure the school is fulfilling its mission and charter.