**The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools**

 **2016 Innovation Awards**

This is the official application for the 2016 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Innovation Awards. Fill out the application in Microsoft Word and email it to adan@mncharterschools.org. If there are any questions, please contact Stephanie Kimble at Stephanie@mncharterschools.org.

Please save your application as yourschoolname.awardcategory.innovationawardapp

School Information

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| School Name(s): |  |  |  |
| Contact First Name: |  | Contact Last Name: |  |
| Contact Email: |  | Contact Phone: |  |
| School Logo: |  |
|  | *Please provide a link where we can download a JPEG or PNG picture of the school’s logo. We will use the school’s logo on official Innovation Award materials.* |

School Information

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|  | **Social Media Links for School** |
| **Facebook** |  |
| **LinkedIn** |  |
| **Twitter** |  |
| **Google+** |  |
| **Instagram** |  |

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| **Thumbnail Description:** |  |
|  | *Provide a brief description in 300 characters or less, including spaces, (approximately 50 words) that best describes your school’s innovation. Judges will use this information to get a clear overview of your innovation.*  |
| **Award Category:** | *Double click here to choose an Award Category* |  |

**IMPORTANT:** This thumbnail description below is a critical element in your nomination because it is the first thing that the judges will read about your new product/service. This thumbnail description will also be used to promote your nomination on the Association’s website, newsletters, and through social media. It is strongly suggested that you work with your colleagues to craft a carefully worded and correctly spelled thumbnail description that is a descriptive as possible.

**Evaluation Criteria**

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools is looking for innovations that addresses a need, solves a problem or seizes an opportunity that exists in education to create a significant positive change in chartered public schools in the five areas outlined in the charter school law.

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| **Criteria #1:****CONCEPT** | ***Involves an Idea, an Opportunity and a Methodology***  |
|  | The Charter School Innovation Award is interested in knowing the basis of the concept/idea, the need or problem the innovation addresses, and the process the school utilized to take the idea from concept development to actual implementation.In 1000 characters or less (**approximately 150 words**), please describe the basis of the concept/idea, the existing need or problem the school is addressing, and the methodology utilized to bring the innovation from being a concept to implementation.  |
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| **Criteria #2:****VALUE** | ***Involves a Need and Cost/Benefit*** |
|  | The Charter School Innovation Award is interested in knowing how the innovation satisfies an existing need of the school and justifies how the innovation’s cost is more effective than previous practice.In 1000 characters or less (**approximately 150 words**), please describe **how** the innovation satisfies or addresses the existing need, and justify how the innovation’s cost is more effective than previous practice. |
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| **Criteria #3:****DIFFERENCE** | ***Involves the Unique Characteristics*** |
|  | The Charter School Innovation Award is interested in knowing how the innovation is different. In 1000 characters or less (**approximately 150 words**), please describe how the innovation is uniquely different from what the school was doing, and is an advantage to the school. |
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| **Criteria #4:****DELIVERY** | ***Involves a Message and Achievement*** |
|  | The Charter School Innovation Award is interested in how the school has communicated to the school community and other organizations, and how you have documented the value of the innovation in achieving the mission and vision of the school. In 1000 characters or less (**approximately 150 words**), please describe **how** the story of the innovation has been communicated to the school community, and how the innovation is assisting in achieving the mission and vision of the school. |
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| **Criteria #5:****IMPACT** | ***Involves Sustainability and Impact*** |
|  | The Charter School Innovation Award is interested in how the innovation is sustained in the school.In 1000 characters or less (**approximately 150 words**), please describe the impact of the innovation in your school environment and how the school sustains and fosters a culture of innovation. |
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| **Bonus** **Question:** | ***Involves Impact on Charter and Traditional Public Schools*** |
|  | The Charter School Innovation Award is interested in how the innovation could impact other charter and traditional public schools.In 1000 characters or less (**approximately 150 words**), please describe how the innovation could impact other charter and traditional public schools. |
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