**The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools**

**2018 Innovation Awards**

This is the official application for the **2018 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Innovation Awards**. Fill out the application in Microsoft Word and email it to tom@mncharterschools.org. If there are any questions, please contact Tom DeGree at tom@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: |  |
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School Media Information

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|  | | **Social Media Links for School** |
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| **School Logo** |  | | |
|  | *Please provide a JPEG or PNG picture of the school’s logo. We will use the school’s logo on official Innovation Award materials.* | | |
| **Facebook** | |  |
| **LinkedIn** | |  |
| **Twitter** | |  |
| **Google+** | |  |
| **Instagram** | |  |

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| **Thumbnail Description:** |  | |
|  | *Provide a brief description in 150 words or less of 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 reading: 1) a clear explanation of the concept/idea that is the basis of the innovation, 2) a clear definition of the need or problem the innovation addresses, and 3) a clear explanation of how the innovation went from being and idea to implementation.  In *250 words or less*, **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 reading: 1) a clear description of how the innovation addresses the need or problem defined, and 2) clearly explains how the innovation’s cost is more effective than previous practice.  In *250 words or less*, **please describe how the innovation satisfies or addresses the existing need, and 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 reading: 1) a clear description of how the innovation is uniquely different from previous practice, and 2) a clear description of how the innovation is an advantage to the school.  In *250 words or less,* **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 reading: 1) a clear description of how the story of the innovation has been communicated to the school community, and 2) a clear description of how the innovation is assisting the school in fulfilling its mission and vision.  In *250 words or less*, **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 reading: 1) a clear description of the impact of the innovation on the school, 2) and a clear description of how the school fosters and sustains a culture of innovation.  In *250 words or less*, **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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