This is the official application for the **2020 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Innovation Awards**. Fill out the application in Microsoft Word and email it to mike@mncharterschools.org. **To be eligible for an award, the innovation must have been implemented for at least 2 years.** If there are any questions, please contact Mike Swan at mike@mncharterschools.org.

Please save your application as **yourschoolname.awardcategory.innovationawardapp**

**School Information**

**School Name:**

**Contact Name:**

**Contact Phone:**

**Contact Email:**

**Category (*please select one)***

[ ] Increasing learning opportunities for pupils

[ ] Encouraging the use of different and innovative teaching methods

[ ] Creating different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes

[ ] Establishing new forms of accountability

[ ] Creating new professional opportunities for teachers

**Innovation Description and Criteria**

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools is looking for innovations that address a need, solve a problem or seize 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.
**All submitted innovations must have been implemented for a minimum of two years.**

**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.**

**IMPORTANT:** This 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.

**Criteria #1 – Concept:**Involves an idea, opportunity, or 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

3) a clear explanation of how the innovation went from being an idea to an 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.**

**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

 2) a clear explanation of 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.**

**Criteria #3 – Difference:**Involves 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

 2) a clear description of how the innovation has been an advantage for the school over the last 2 years.

In *250 words or less,* **please describe how the innovation is uniquely different from what the school was doing before and how it is an advantage to the school.**

**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 since its implementation

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.**

**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 has made on the school over the last 2 years

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.**