



MN ASSOCIATION OF  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

*Unleashing education from convention*

## **WAYNE JENNINGS**

### **2017 MN CHARTER SCHOOL PIONEER AWARD**

Wayne Jennings's "pioneering" spirit and nature is the stuff that legends are made of, if it were not all true as it is in Wayne's case. To chronicle Wayne's leadership and accomplishments in his sixty-three years in public education could be the basis of a graduate seminar.

Wayne's entrepreneurial spirit in education can be seen from his days helping to establish the Career Study Center – a prototype alternative learning program for at-risk youth, to helping design and then serving as the Education Director for the Children's Theatre Company and School, to establishing and directing the St. Paul Open School – a research based demonstration school, and the list goes on.

Wayne brought his pioneering spirit and nature to the charter school realm early on in Minnesota's charter school movement and is still an active member of the charter school community today.

Wayne has helped start a dozen or so charter schools, provided guidance, counsel and support to countless prospective school developers and founders, and has served as the Superintendent/Director of two charter schools.

He has served on the Board of Directors of multiple charter schools, most recently as a board member of the High School for Recording Arts, and the Jennings Community School, a school which was named in his honor for the work he has done with at-risk youth.

Wayne has also served as an authorizer representative, a member of evaluation teams for charter school proposals, co-founded a business that provides backroom and consulting services to charters and last but not least, he served as the President of this Association when it transitioned from an informal group to an incorporated Association in 1998.

Wayne you have demonstrated and modeled the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that is the foundation of the chartered public school ideal.

Wayne Jennings you are a **Minnesota Charter School Pioneer** for "*Unleashing education from Convention*" through your ongoing and tireless work to create new, different, innovative, and alternative educational opportunities for Minnesota's students, especially those who need learning environments that do not fit in the square box.