2013-2014
THE 2ND ANNUAL NEVADA CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE
The Charter School Association of Nevada Presents in Collaboration with the Nevada Association of School Administrators:

CSAN’s 2013 Conference Schedule

Wednesday, June 19

11am-Noon Conference Check-In/Registration
12:00-12:15 Conference Welcome
12:15-1:00 Ember Reichgott Junge – Keynote Speaker
1:00-1:45 Breakout Session - 1
1:45-2:30 Legislative Update
2:30-2:45 Break/Exhibit Invite
2:45-3:30 Breakout Session - 2
3:30-4:15 Breakout Session - 3
4:15-5:15 Alex Raffi – “Creative Courage Workshop”
5:30pm Reception

Thursday, June 20th

8:00-8:30 CSAN Trustee Mtg.
8:30-9:30 Valorie Bringle and Sue Slocum – “Nevada Common Core Standards”
9:30-10:15 Breakout Session - 4
10:15-10:30 Break/Exhibit Invite
10:30-11:15 Breakout Session - 5
11:15-12:00 Tony Roberts – Keynote Speaker
12:00-1:30 Lunch & Awards
1:30-2:15 Breakout Session - 6
2:15-3:00 Breakout Session - 7
3:00-3:15 Break
3:15-4:00 Breakout Session - 8
4:00-4:30 CSAN Strategic Plan Update & Conference Closing

Keynote & Highlighted Speakers

Keynote Speaker – Wednesday, June 19

Ember Reichgott Junge
Author of Zero Chance of Passage: The Pioneering Charter School Story
When she was a Minnesota senator, Ember sponsored legislation that established the first charter school in 1992. She is an innovator in the charter school movement, and she is a strong advocate of education reform. She will discuss her efforts in establishing this groundbreaking school. All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of Zero Chance of Passage: The Pioneering Charter School Story!

Keynote Speaker – Thursday, June 20

Tony Roberts
Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Charter School Association
Tony has significant experience in the areas of associational and nonprofit management, resource development, advocacy, and government relations. In 2011, the Georgia Supreme Court declared Georgia Charter Schools Commission unconstitutional, casting severe doubt over the futures of 16 charter schools and the 15,000 students they served. Tony was a strong force in reinstating the Georgia Charter Schools Commission.

Highlighted Speakers
In addition to our Keynote speakers, Ember Reichgott Junge and Tony Roberts, two other speakers will be highlighted.

Alex Raffi, of Imagine Marketing, will present a workshop on “Creative Courage”. He has shared this presentation with many companies in southern Nevada, including Zappos.

Sue Slocum and Valorie Bringle will present a session on the Common Core Standards. They are members of the State’s Common Core Curriculum transition development committee.

Nevada Public Charter Schools - The United Movement

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Dear Community,

During the spring of 2013, just over 21,000 students were enrolled in 32 public charter schools around the State of Nevada. This was an increase of over 14% from the previous school year that also showed two new schools in their first year of operation. Public charter schools are serving families in Nevada by giving them free public school choice and being held to higher accountability for increasing student achievement. Families are discovering independence, flexibility, and better educational solutions for students looking to break the mold of a traditional model to education. Public charter schools take a laser-focused approach to educating children by designing and working toward the mission specific goals of each school. This allows public charter schools to stay small and appeal to the unique learning style of each student. Conversely, it allows families to find the best type of educational solution to meet their needs.

Again, Nevada’s public charter schools are structured in many different ways and each maintain their unique mission to give families choice and create better solutions to education. Some of the unique models of education found at public charter schools in Nevada the following: dual-language, distance education, Montessori, project based, credit recovery, math and science, and more. Educators are also finding similar opportunities in public charter schools by choosing the best educational setting to meet their style of teaching, leadership, development, and future goals.

According to a report A Growing Movement: America’s Largest Charter School Communities from the National Alliance for Public Charter School in November 2012, Clark County, Nevada was ranked #1 in the nation for charter school growth potential. With such facts, it is highly anticipated that the number of Nevada’s public charter schools will continue to grow along with its student population over the next few years offering more choices and bringing about better solutions to education.

Sincerely,

John Hawk, President
Charter School Association of Nevada

_MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT OF CSAN

GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNOR

June 19, 2013

As Governor of Nevada, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Charter Schools Association of Nevada (CSAN) Conference. I would first like to thank all those who worked ceaselessly to make this event possible.

As the leading organization serving public charter schools in Nevada, CSAN is dedicated to promoting quality education for every student within our state. With over 10,000 students currently enrolled in Nevada charter schools, it is the hard work of dedicated advocates such as you that have promoted education equality within our state. As you may know, I am a strong supporter of education and believe that every student in Nevada has the right to quality education. With your help, we move closer to that goal. I commend the work all you have done and continue to do for Nevada’s youth.

I hope you all have a successful and productive conference, and I thank you once again for your interest in and support of charter schools.

Sincerely,

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CSAN

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Great Basin College offers professional and technical education at the associate and baccalaureate level. For nearly fifty years, GBC has provided higher education to over 125,000 rural Nevadans. With its main campus in Elko, and centers in Ely, Pahrump, Winnemucca and online, GBC is the cultural center of the region, with regular music, theatre and dance performances, art exhibits and humanities lectures.

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2013 CSAN Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 2013 CSAN Award Recipients for being nominated and selected as the 2013 Charter School Persons of the Year. Your commitment to improving charter schools is having an impact on all public schools of choice throughout Nevada.

CSAN STUDENT OF THE YEAR – Derek Orzell, Alpine Academy

Derek Orzell is a Senior at Alpine Academy. He has an amazing can-do attitude. He has overcome many odds, to not only graduate from a charter school, but also be Valedictorian of his class. He is a first generation college attendee. Derek has made a difference at Alpine Academy Charter High School through his amazing example of dedication to learning and leadership. He has earned a high GPA and will be using the Millennium Scholarship to attend UNR this fall, where he will major in Pre-Med.

Derek is the president of the Leadership Club and has made a difference in many lives by leading community service projects all over the school. Derek is also the editor of Yearbook and earned money to attend the Museum of Tolerance fieldtrip in Los Angeles. He was recently in Carson City to receive his award for the statewide Nevada Law Day Essay Contest on “What Does Equality Mean to You.” He earned the President’s Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence last school year and will do so again this year. He is a kind person and exemplifies great character strengths such as grit, optimism, self control, social intelligence, and gratitude. He impacts our charter school community in countless ways.

CSAN PARENT OF THE YEAR - Suzi Lundt, Honors Academy of Literature

Suzi Lundt enthusiastically took on the daunting task of establishing a parent volunteer network at our brand new Charter School. Her patience and positive attitude put parents at ease during the first days of school and beyond, as we worked to establish routines. Parents felt comfortable coming to Suzi with concerns and ideas and she tirelessly advocated for parents to the administration. She set up an office so that she could better address parent and school needs. She was the key person to establish the parent volunteer culture that The Honors Academy of Literature needs to be successful. She volunteered to coordinate and write a weekly newsletter. This newsletter continues to be a vital link in communication between home and school. Everything Suzi has done this year has been with a dose of her effortless charm and charisma. We are so appreciative of all her efforts at Honors Academy of Literature.

CSAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR – Katie Gilbert, Explore Knowledge Academy

Katie Gilbert at Explore Knowledge Academy is a phenomenal teacher because she dedicates every moment of her time to enhancing the school and the lives of the students. She manages to have a positive impact on every aspect of our school: academics, interventions, mentorship, technology, fund raising, and extra curricular activities. She sets the bar high for educators and exemplifies the vision behind charter schools in Nevada.

In the classroom, Miss Gilbert uses every possible tool available to engage her students in learning. Every child has their iPad in one hand and stylus in the other. There is no subject that her students cannot tackle on their iPads. While keeping her literacy program grounded solidly in fundamentals such as phonemic awareness and fluency, she has her students access most of their literature content via their iPads. Students read, write, and submit work online. She finds a way to enhance and integrate all content areas with technology.

Miss Gilbert’s spirit goes beyond the classroom and the time the students are in session. She sponsors the art club, coaches cross country and coordinates the school intervention program. When an idea is presented to her, she takes it and runs with it.

CSAN ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR – Leigh Berdrow, Academy for Career Education

Leigh Berdrow is one of Nevada’s most dedicated and established educational professionals serving the public charter school community. Over the past eleven years, she has taken her leadership role as a co-founding member of the Academy for Career Education (ACE) to being the current Director of the school. Leigh continues to benefit her charter school through her leadership and makes contributions to the greater charter school community during and between legislative sessions. Leigh is in the middle of her 11th year of successfully serving ACE public charter school for students, industry, and Nevada. She has led her public charter school community by making AYP for test scores, with the range from adequate to exemplary for every subject. She has led her public charter school community by making AYP for test scores, with the range from adequate to exemplary for every subject. Her leadership has been lauded for their fiscal responsibility, her governing board was an example used to change legislation to include a variety of professional backgrounds on the board, and her students graduate from high school earning regular or advanced diplomas with CTE endorsements and become productive citizens in the community.

Leigh emphasizes communication with industries, parents, and students as an important part to her school’s success. Leigh develops meaningful contact through leaders in her respective industries and maintains a valuable working relationship with her sponsoring agent. She serves as a positive influence for public charter schools and the progress of public education by working with legislators and servicing the needs of all educators.

Ms. Leigh Berdrow cares about the greater movement of charter schools and has used her involvement, experience, and professional connections to help develop a better learning environment in Washoe County and create more credibility with public charter schools in Nevada.

CSAN INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR – Tiffini Turner, Nevada State High School

Tiffini Turner became a member of the Nevada State High School (NSHS) staff to take on the role of Educational Advising Coordinator to help shape the future direction of students graduating from high school. In this role, Mrs. Turner has stepped out of her previous background in counseling to take on a much broader and innovative role that is so necessary in charter schools.

She has organized conferences for NSHS. These conferences have been well attended and have brought in a wide range of guest presenters that have focused on themes and topics that highlight the school’s mission of supporting students in a college environment. The spring, she helped arrange an interview experience in which Nevada State High School students participated in real world interviews with local community leaders. Most importantly, Mrs. Turner assembled a team of subject preparation teachers who managed to obtain 100% proficiency for the school in reading, math, and writing.

One of the most innovative moves by Mrs. Turner was her taking responsibility for her own performance. In 2011, the Nevada Legislature passed AB 229 so that schools would establish a program of performance pay and enhanced compensation for employees. NSHS developed performance incentives called Performance Metrics that were developed in conjunction with Mrs. Turner and her supervisor to establish a high level of measurable performance and accountability in specified duties. She is a true innovator.
Academy for Career Education

Grades: 9-12

Academy for Career Education High School (ACE) teaches skills for today's construction and engineering industry through integrated academics with a focus on employability skills which prepare students to graduate and be productive citizens. ACE High has been approved for career programs in air conditioning, diesel and heavy truck (CADD) for students in grades 9-12. The Diesel and CADD career programs are sequenced in a three-level program of study that includes an introductory, an intermediate, and advanced level. The Building Trades Program is sequenced in a two-level career program that includes an intermediate and advanced level. Students who complete a program of study at ACE earn a Nevada high school diploma with an endorsement in Career and Technical Education and have the opportunity to earn tech-prep and/or dual credit.

Alpine Academy

Grades: 9-12

Alpine Academy’s mission is to ensure its students receive a quality education and obtain the necessary skills and knowledge needed to further their life. Alpine Academy also encourages the use of effective methods of teaching for students in grades 9-12. They offer courses that are created in accordance with standards prescribed by the Nevada Department of Education and required for a high school diploma. Alpine Academy offers a positive learning environment, a personalized education, and small class sizes. It is a community-based school which is effective at serving an at-risk population. The school hires fully-qualified teachers who themselves have obtained the same or higher educational achievements. The school hires the same administrative, teacher and coaching staff, and the same administration and board of directors. The administration sets standards for acceptable teaching practices and provides support resources and ongoing professional development to facilitate effective instructional strategies.

Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy

Grades: K-12

Defined by educational excellence, the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (AACAAP), a K-12 public charter school, maximizes the potential of every learner. As a center of strength, Agassi Prep provides an array of choices and opportunities to underserved communities. By harnessing the talents of gifted educational entrepreneurs, the school works to produce inspired, creative, ethical, compassionate, and reflective leaders who offer solutions to the problems posed by a democratic society. Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy strives to establish an educational environment where students are prepared academically and socially to compete at an international level. Involvement in community affairs and cultural activities also is a vital component of the AACAAP curriculum. The school’s goal is to provide the opportunity to gain the academic and social skills needed in order to be competitive in an ever increasing global environment.

Bailey Charter Elementary School

Grades: K-6

Bailey Charter Elementary School’s mission says “We are committed to providing a supportive environment, which encourages students to connect their knowledge to the real world through inquiry-based learning and differentiated instruction.” Our goal is to create an environment that engages students while encouraging them to strive for achievement. We work in collaboration with families to achieve this shared purpose. Incorporation of current educational best practices is the rule and our staff continually engages in continuing education to ensure that our educational program is effective and meets the benchmark standards of every student. The time each student spends with us is important, as we work together in the improvement of our school by teaching self-discipline, making good choices, respecting others, and accepting responsibility for our own actions. Our staff is committed to building on our ideal that Bailey is “The School Your Child Deserves.”

Beacon Academy of Nevada

Grades: 9-12

Beacon Academy of Nevada is an alternative to traditional classroom based learning for students in grades 9-12 statewide, through the Nevada K-12. Beacon Academy offers students the choice to obtain a relevant education, providing access to high quality instruction and innovative curriculum. Students also have access to comprehensive student support services designed to enhance educational, personal, and social achievement. An extensive network of teachers, specialists, tutors and mentors are personally committed to helping students realize their full academic potential. Our goal is to encourage students to move forward with a higher level of confidence and ability, and to graduate high school prepared for college or the workplace. We seek to provide excellent educational alternatives for high-school age students who seek an innovative high school experience and may benefit from a non-traditional, but rigorous, high school setting. Our fully online educational environment provides the flexibility for students to complete their high school education from anywhere, at any time. Beacon Academy of Nevada offers students the freedom, flexibility and support to learn and achieve for a lifetime.

Carson Montessori School

Grades: K-6

The mission at Carson Montessori in educating the “whole child” is to provide, through a Montessori education, an alternative learning environment that allows every child to reach their fullest potential, celebrate their diversity, demonstrate their mutual respect, and value their parents and community members as partners in the process of their education. They guide children through 6-8 years of learning in a nurturing, nurturing, small-school setting. In alignment with Dr. Montessori’s own mission, they promote peace education through teaching respect for self, others and the community. Carson Montessori is evolving into a sparking education gem for Northern Nevada. Carson Montessori’s methods of learning spark wonder and curiosity, while igniting a passion for lifelong learning. Their students experience their learning in a real-world, prepared environment of hands-on, sensorily enhanced educational adventures. Simultaneously, this school is committed to teaching the content required by the state curriculum and new national core standards. Montessori instructional materials and cutting edge teaching methods are enhanced by robotics, rocketry, sensory-real-world materials, the arts and sites visits to community resources which are wrapped around the common core standards and delivered as the primary means of instruction.

Coral Academy of Science Charter School

Grades: K-12

Coral Academy of Science (CAS) provides a safe learning environment that is supported by a diverse community and a student body that is dedicated to a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas provides a rigorous college-prep curriculum that is aligned with the Nevada Standards of Education. Their goal is to challenge the students in grades K-12 so that they can achieve their highest potential. Faculty challenges the students and helps close the gap that might be holding some students back. Students are assigned to regular tutoring sessions and homework clubs to assist in bringing their grades up. CASLV believes that the students should be encouraged to participate in events that are taking place outside the school. That’s why CASLV students participate in events like Science Olympiad, First Lego League, Science Bowl, and Regional Math contests, etc. The curriculum of the advanced math, advanced science and robotics programs are designed keeping these activities in mind. In addition, every student is required to prepare a science fair project starting in early elementary.
**Discovery Charter School**

Grades: K-8

Discovery Charter School’s mission is to promote a safe, nurturing environment which fosters student success through community involvement, innovative educational practices, and a sense of ownership. The school recognizes the individual needs of students and provides a safe learning environment. The school offers a variety of activities and extracurricular programs for students who are interested in participating. The school is committed to preparing students for success in life.

**Doral Academy**

Grades: K-7

Doral Academy of Nevada is dedicated to providing an enhanced educational experience that will develop outstanding student achievement with focus on each child being well rounded in all parts of education. Preparing students in an academically challenging and personally meaningful learning environment with an emphasis on arts integration that can increase literacy, cognitive and social development. Collaborative effort between students, teachers, parents, and staff are devoted to establish, monitor, achieve, and celebrate individual goals for each child at Doral Academy of Nevada.

**Elko Institute for Academic Achievement**

Grades: K-8

Elko Institute for Academic Achievement’s mission is to provide students K-8 with an education that will be differentiated and address the academic ability in each subject area while ensuring high academic standards. The goals of this school are to improve the opportunities for pupils to learn, and to encourage the use of effective teaching methods. Their purpose is to prepare students to continue to be lifelong learners while focusing on their strengths and gifts and improving skills within areas of need. The Elko Institute’s individual class encourages student-centered inquiry-based learning and incorporates research-based, hands-on investigations that integrate mathematics, science, and technology. The school sends flyers and weekly newsletters by email with the activities for the week or other important information. Teachers individually email the parents of students in their classes to inform them of what is going on with assignments, grades, activities or to set up a face to face meeting.

**Explore Knowledge Academy**

Grades: K-12

The Mission of Explore Knowledge Academy (EKA) is Personalized Learning through Educational Discovery. Creating Leaders One Project at a Time. EKA’s goal is to open the world of learning and leadership to young people. At EKA, advisors, students, parents, and community members work together to create life-long learners through the use of Project Based Learning methods and the integration of modern technology. As Nevada’s first iSchool Campus, integrating iPad2 technology with the Project Based Learning educational platform, EKA provides a focused learning, technology infused environment for students. iPad2s are available to each student while on campus, K-12 wide to increase project research depth. Explore Knowledge Academy (EKA) expects all students to meet the requirements of the 21st Century Course of Study. Seniors are enrolled in a year-long 100-hour Senior Project class in which they create a capstone project that gives back to the school community, or the community at large. All direct instruction includes an integration of content knowledge and process skills through hands-on inquiry based instruction, research and experimentation. Students at all levels K-12 create and present projects in direct and non-direct instruction courses in order to meet standards, share their learned knowledge and embrace the feeling of community.

**High Desert Montessori School**

Grades: K-8

High Desert Montessori School is a public charter school in Reno, NV. We were formed with the belief that all children deserve the right to experience a Montessori education. Our teachers are fully trained with either AMI or AMS backgrounds. We offer the freedom and freedom of choice to students for educational services for Kindergarten through 8th grade and fee based services for Infant/Toddler through Pre-School. High Desert provides a safe, nurturing school environment that fosters independence, problem-solving and great works in our students. We offer tools to explore the universe through Montessori’s Cosmic Curriculum; the purpose is to link all areas of human knowledge. We urge all of our students to be participating members of a socially-conscious and green community by inspiring them to be critical thinkers capable of reflection, communication and action. The parents of HDMS students are vital members of the school community. They participate in many school functions such as Chili Channel, Meridian Dinner, Jog-A-Thon, plays, Science Fair, Multicultural Night, community gatherings to celebrate student talents, gardening activities, and many other classroom projects. We teach the way they learn!
Honors Academy of Literature

Grades: 1-8

Achieving our mission, the Honors Academy of Literature will be educating students at full capacity each year. Students will have access to diverse and contemporary quality children's literature across academic content areas. Faculty, staff and parents will work together to empower students through a heavy focus on children's literature that incorporates messages of equality and values diversity, and creates opportunities for students to do community projects based on their continuing understanding of social justice. There will be daily use of evidence-based practices during instruction, and children's literature will be the main mode and approach to teaching all content while incorporating other research-based strategies and differentiating for students’ needs. Teachers and students will use reading, writing, and studying children's literature as a vehicle to increase engagement and intrinsic motivation toward learning and achievement. The Honors Academy of Literature will develop leaders by involving the students in decision making throughout the day, and involving teachers, students, parents, and professional community members as partners in the learning process. The Honors Academy of Literature will be a unique learning environment throughout the school where reading and writing are valued, authentically practiced, discussed, shared, and encouraged daily. There will be regular opportunities for professionals in the field of Children's Literature to have a presence in the academy adding to the school culture through learning opportunities for both students and staff. We will move beyond a balanced approach to literacy to a balanced approach to education—incorporating performance-based progress monitoring assessments and instruction with a rich learning environment that encourages critical thinking and asks students to take responsibility for their own learning.

I Can Do Anything Charter High School

Grades: 9-12

The mission of ICDA Charter High School is to instill Integrity, Character, Dedication and Achievement through innovative education. ICDA's curriculum has been created to meet the needs of the student population based on assessments of skills, knowledge, and students’ interests. ICDA has developed video, digital arts, and photography programs that can lead to the awarding of a Career and Technical (CTE) endorsement upon successful completion of the required courses. The school also has an articulation agreement with TMCC that allows students to earn three college credits in the Tech-Prep program. Another important aspect of ICDA's curriculum is the participation in the We the People national civics courses and completion. This program is highly successful in building character, self-confidence, and self-reliance for ICDA's at-risk population. In addition to the core curriculum offered and the visual arts programs, ICDA has a combined media arts program. Through the instruction of a world-renowned choreographer and dancer, the students perform to audiences of many genres and venues. Another option ICDA offers its students is the distance education program. Students who are motivated and capable of working independently at home can opt for the distance ed program, or students may opt to enroll in the hybrid program, where they take some classes on campus, and work on some courses at home, allowing for credit recovery and/or acceleration towards graduation. The ICDA school year is broken into nine-week blocks, and most students take only four classes a block, giving them the opportunity to earn eight credits per year instead of six credits per year at the traditional high schools. A freshman student at ICDA could easily graduate in just three years! In addition, students attend school just four days a week, giving them the freedom to get a job, perform community service projects, and get ahead in their studies at ICDA's optional Friday School. ICDA provides students with a refreshing and often lifechanging high school experience.

Imagine School at Mountain View

Grades: K-2

The mission of Imaginea School at Mountain View is to positively shape the hearts and minds of our students by providing them with an academically rigorous and content-rich curriculum in a learner-centered environment where character is modeled and promoted within a collaborative community based on trusting relationships. Vision Statement: Educating the whole child through rigorous academic instruction, effective teaching strategies, and a strong focus on character development. School Motto: Academic Excellence plus positive Character Development is the goal of true education!

ISMV Staff Motto: MAKE PROGRESS with every child, at every chance, on every day, whatever it takes, no excuses.

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada

Grades: K-12

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada (IICSN) believes that all children are capable individuals who deserve access to caring educators, community members and organizations, multiple languages, global connections, knowledge, leadership training, resources, skills, the arts, technology, and a variety of career pathways. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. IICSN believes that empowering its K-12 students to become active learners allows them to take pride in their accomplishments and provides technology to become successful in the ever-changing world. Innovations International Charter School of Nevada (IICSN) believes that all children are capable individuals who deserve access to caring educators, community members and organizations, multiple languages, global connections, knowledge, leadership training, resources, skills, the arts, technology, and a variety of career pathways.

Leadership Academy of Nevada

Grades: 9-12

Leadership Academy of Nevada is an online/ virtual charter school serving grades 9-12. Our curriculum combines rigorous liberal arts courses, abundant training in technology, and a persistent emphasis on leadership. LANV was started by a group of Nevada educators, professionals, and home school parents for the purpose of providing highly-motivated students and parents throughout the state with an excellent learning environment.

Learning Bridge Academy

Grades: K-6

Learning Bridge Charter of Ely will provide an environment in which students will be immersed in an intense educational experience. They will greatly improve their knowledge base and their chances for a successful future. The culture of the school will reflect an atmosphere in which each student’s strengths and needs will be recognized and met. Staff, students and parents will work together with this knowledge to guide each student’s educational experience, encourage student’s curiosity of their world, instill a compassion for understanding of that world through their studies and encourage them to attain a potential as yet unrealized. Dedication, self-discipline and cooperation will drive the school to its goals, celebrate accomplishments and treasure its gains.

The school will provide Core Knowledge curriculum as well as the CELL/ESL pedagogy. These two programs complement one another and will lead to great gains in student achievement. In order to broaden the students knowledge of a rising Global economy, Learning Bridge will expose students to Chinese language and its culture at all grade levels. The students will be prepared to successfully complete their next phase of education with pride, confidence, and expertise.
Mariposa Dual Language Academy

Grades: K-5

The Mariposa Dual Language Academy, a Public Charter School for kids in grades K-5, promotes academic achievement through Two-Way Language Learning and will celebrate the diverse heritage and culture of the community. At Mariposa Academy, their mission is to promote a life-long love of learning that is reflected in their students’ performances, self-esteem, and citizenship. Two-Way Language Immersion Training (Seven Steps to Success in Dual Language Immersion) has been provided to all faculty and certified staff. The school has an understanding of the instructional strategies that focus on language acquisition, literacy skills, and assessment tools that address the diverse linguistic levels of students. This training distincively correlates Mariposa’s dual language mission and vision to prepare students to become critical thinkers and bilingual/bi-literate adults. Continued Guided Language Acquisition Development (GLAD) and Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) trainings are provided. The entire faculty incorporates these strategies to enhance their language arts, math, and science instruction.

Nevada Connections Academy

Grades: K-12

Nevada Connections Academy’s (NCA) mission is to help each student in grades K-12 maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program. NCA uses the Connections Academy online teaching and instruction program, which was designed by teacher-certified instructors, and success in the program is the first national program of its kind to be nationally accredited by AdvancED. The rigorous program includes both fundamental skills and higher-order thinking, which prepares students for further education and lifelong, independent learning. NCA underscores the importance of integrating tools for student-to-teacher and student-to-student interaction and the central role of highly qualified, specially trained professional teachers, while community coordinators facilitate enriching in-person community activities to round out the comprehensive learning experience. Also, Nevada Connections Academy strives to maintain a sense of community with school stakeholders in a variety of ways. Parents and community members serve on their school board and volunteer in their program.

Nevada Performance Academy

Grades: 7-12

The NEVADA PERFORMANCE ACADEMY (NPA) offers a unique, arts-based and arts-infused, academic program that provides a distinct option for 7-12 grade students looking for challenging curriculum, leading to strong educational outcomes. At NEVADA PERFORMANCE ACADEMY, students are guided by culturally and creatively enriched learning experiences that make learning come alive. Courses are designed with online delivery and combined with well-crafted books and print materials. Students experience a dynamic, flexible, and traditional environment that teaches children to be critical thinkers in a fast-changing global world. Their K12® curriculum provides learning that is individualized with content, guidance, and individual attention. NVPA offers a dynamic, flexible, and traditional environment that teaches children to be critical thinkers in a fast-changing global world. Their K12® curriculum provides learning that is individualized with content, guidance, and individual attention.

Nevada State High School

Grades: 11-12

The mission of Nevada State High School (NSHS) is to support their students in a college environment with personal, academic, and career skills. The school’s vision is to lead the State of Nevada in transitioning students to college. NSHS has increased its accountability for student achievement above the state standard by measuring student growth in academics, college readiness, and career skills. NSHS integrates a dual-credit college curriculum for students to concurrently earn high school credit for their college coursework. With this dual-credit curriculum, NSHS students go to real college classes with real college professors in a real college environment. All students take a rigorous college curriculum with 80 – 100% of the students’ classes taken at college. NSHS monitors, assists, develops, guides, and supports the successful transition into college and springboard into their lifelong careers. Students work to successfully develop professional habits around the school’s core values of responsibility, integrity, and motivation. Students refine the skills of effective college career planning and customize their own education for a four-year college degree. Students learn how to prosper in a professional setting, grow with others, and flourish academically.

Nevada Virtual Academy

Grades: K-12

Nevada Virtual Academy’s (NVA) mission is to create a high-performance public school program that equips their students with the educational tools of tomorrow, thereby providing them with all the opportunities they need to succeed in life while creating a model for a 21st century public school. The mission of the Nevada Virtual Academy is to provide Nevada students with a world-class education grounded in high academic standards, which will help them achieve their full academic potential and become productive members of society. The core philosophy of the Nevada Virtual Academy is that all young people can achieve academic excellence if they receive rigorous instruction, high standards, informed guidance, and personalized attention. NVA offers a dynamic, flexible, and traditional environment that teaches children to be critical thinkers in a fast-changing global world. Their K12® curriculum provides learning that is individualized with content that makes learning come alive. Courses are designed with online delivery and combined with well-crafted books and materials that are integrated with online lessons.

Oasis Academy

Grades: K-8

Oasis Academy, in partnership with its parents and community, strives to instill in its students high standards for academic achievement, leadership, integrity, and responsible citizenship. The Oasis Academy creates leaders one project at a time. They believe every child has the potential to succeed and should have the opportunity to receive a world class education. There are three critical elements necessary to make this happen: teachers, students, and families. Together as a team of highly skilled teachers, dedicated students, and supportive families, they strive to help each child reach his or her potential. Oasis Academy utilizes Project Based Learning. In Project Based Learning (PBL), students K-8 go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. Rigorous projects help students learn key academic content and practice 21st Century Skills, such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking.

Odyssey Charter School

Grades: K-12

At Odyssey Charter School they believe that all students are unique, and by utilizing sound instructional practices, students can achieve academically. The school staff recognizes that their obligations go beyond professional responsibilities and are committed to the success of the students and school. They acknowledge and value the unique qualities and experiences of the students, staff, and families. They will continually seek multiple opportunities and approaches to ensure each student contributes to the learning process. They are committed to a positive belief in their students’ abilities which maximizes support for all individuals within their learning community. Odyssey Charter School is more than a K-12 experience, they are a hybrid institution that brings the best of both in-class and virtual environments. No one type of instruction is the best for all students. Each student is at a unique point in their learning trajectory and the students’ needs vary. They are committed to helping each child succeed, exactly where they should be on providing a premium education for students. Children enjoy greater flexibility and more personalized attention - two reasons the Department of Education finds hybrid schools to be more effective than online or traditional schools.
Pinecrest Elementary School  
Grades: K-7  
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada provides a safe and nurturing educational environment that maximizes student achievement and fosters respect for all. Pinecrest Academy utilizes ongoing assessments, engaging activities, the creation of a strong community environment and regular parent involvement to achieve student success. In this manner, Pinecrest Academy assists all students to become equally successful as lifelong learners and responsible citizens. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada is to be recognized as an academic institution that consistently performs at the highest level on all measurable indicators of state and national test scores, state and national testing participation, regional, state and national testing, preparing students for secondary education, and having all students successfully prepared for and obtain college educations. Pinecrest Academy will be a model school demonstrating practices which produce equitable successful results for all students. Differentiated instruction is the platform for instruction, with all students receiving the learning environment best suited for their individual needs. Student enrollment in 2013-2014 is estimated to be 900 kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Quest Academy Preparatory Education  
Grades: K-12  
Quest Academy Preparatory Education’s vision is to create a holistic society of academicians, social, and personal development for students to assist them in their quest for success and achievement of their dreams. Quest Academy Preparatory Education’s mission is to provide Quality instruction, Effective Tools for learning, Support for our families & the community, and an Understanding of the needs of our students.

Rainbow Dreams Academy  
Grades: K-5  
Working together, the staff, students, parents, and community of Rainbow Dreams Academy (RDA) are dedicated to providing a nurturing learning community that will educate and prepare their students in grades K-5 to challenge their intellect, maximize their talents, respect themselves and others, and take pride in their heritage, so that they become lifelong learners and productive, successful citizens. Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School’s success and excellence is attributed to the school’s continued belief in providing a nurturing learning environment. Rainbow Dreams Academy’s curriculum is supported by a strong emphasis on character education, core values, and multicultural education. Rainbow Dreams Academy’s administration, teachers, the RDA Governing Board, and other school staff provide continuous communication with parents, family, and the community. Through face-to-face and telephone conferencing, Rainbow’s staff provides assistance, answers questions, and helps resolve concerns.

Rainbowshadow Community Charter High School  
Grades: 9-12  
Rainbowshadow Community Charter High School staff and administration are dedicated to creating empowered community members through real world education. An interdisciplinary curriculum directly linked with state standards provides students with a successful educational experience. This approach allows students to creatively express their individual talents in a project-based environment. Individual student needs are assessed and strategies for improved student gains are reviewed weekly. Rainbowshadow has a close-knit faculty who create a personalized approach to student needs and concerns. Skills that create students who are prepared for vocational and higher education challenges are stresses in all content areas. Opportunities to use technology in the classroom are encouraged. A variety of technological tools are available and utilized throughout the school and Rainshadow prepares students in grades 9-12 to have 21st century skills.

Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School  
Grades: K-8  
Sierra Nevada Charter School’s (SNACS) mission is to become the leading choice of public education in which educators, parents, and students are partners in fostering a small community and exemplary academic and social achievement in a cost-effective way. SNACS, a free public K-8 school founded in 1999, is a small school community focused on personal learning and individualized education. The school believes that bringing the classroom studies to the real world is an exciting way to engage students in experiential learning. Students participate in “normal” camping activities, but experience what they have learned in the classroom is the main focus. The SNACS outdoor labs, depending on the trip, can be for a given grade level(s), or for the school community. Students participate in canoeing, kayaking, fishing, flower, fauna, and tree identifying, animal observing, hiking, biking, ranger activities, orienteering, rock climbing, and swimming. Although they are exhausted from activities all day, night time doesn’t give students time to sleep. There is still more learning to be done. They experience orienteering, experience star and moon gazing, identifying constellations, and the changing cycles of the solar system. Getting students out into the real world is the schools way of providing successful learning.

Silver Sands Montessori Charter School  
Grades: K-7  
The mission of Silver Sands Montessori Charter School is to provide quality Montessori education in an environment that encourages a child’s love of learning and respect for self, others, community and the world. Silver Sands Montessori Charter School’s curriculum is an integrated thematic approach for students in grades K-7. The Nevada State Standards for each grade level form the basis of lessons for what students need to learn in each subject. Montessori principles are used to design thematic lessons to integrate the standards into all subjects. These include Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies (with an emphasis on Geography, World Cultures, Community, and Civil) Science (Ecology, Environmental Education, Physical Science, Earth Science, and Space), Physical Education, Music, Art, Practical Life, Library and Research skill development at upper elementary. A variety of instructional materials is used at the school and includes Montessori materials, Math-U-See, Guided Reading, Words-Their-Way, and Vocabu-Lit.

Silver State Charter Schools  
Grades: 7-12  
The mission of Silver State Charter Schools is to provide a quality, public, secondary, non-traditional school that improves the opportunities of its students to learn. The vision of Silver State Charter Schools is to meet the educational needs of high achieving students who prefer a non-traditional way of learning and also meet the specific needs of those students who want the one-on-one instruction which does not exist in the traditional setting. Silver State Charter Schools is a free, public statewide hybrid type charter school that utilizes on-line, distance education in place of those classes that can follow your students progress real time and frees our teachers to spend quality one-on-one time with each student in a classroom setting. Middle school, grades 7 & 8, and high school, grades 9-12, attend classes at least once per week at our new high tech facility located in Carson City to individually meet with their teachers and review assignments. Our school bus routes include Reno, Fallon, Fernley, Silver Springs, Dayton, Storey and Douglas County and Carson City. Students located farther than 60 miles from our facility, can elect to attend as a distance education student, communicating with their teachers weekly by phone, streaming video and email.

NEW SCHOOLS FOR 2013 OPENING  
American Preparatory Academy, Doral Academy, Leadership Academy of Nevada, Nevada Performance Academy, Sterling Charter School South
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas
Grades: K-9 & gr. 12 by 2016

The mission of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas is to prepare students to excel in academics and attain knowledge through effective teaching and life-long learning. The school’s ultimate goal is to provide a learning environment that will maximize the potential for student success. Teachers will use differentiated instructional strategies that connect with individual student learning needs. Teachers will manage instructional time to meet the Common Core Standards while providing motivating, challenging, and meaningful experiences for students to receive and process information in ways that require differentiation of experience. Response to instruction is monitored very closely, and teachers use data to drive instructional decisions in the classroom. Somerset Academy opened its first school in Miramar, Florida, with a population of just 50 students in grades K - 5. The Las Vegas campuses will be serving nearly 1400 students in grades K-8 from the 2012-2013 school year.

Sterling Charter High School
Grades: 9-12

At the core of the Sterling Charter High School Southern Nevada’s (SCHSSN) mission and vision is the belief that all students can learn and that all young adults are capable of becoming positive, contributing members of their communities. The mission of SCHSSN is to provide a comprehensive, multi-tiered learning environment that ensures student success through engagement in specifically designed learning programs that develop the social and academic skills that will lead to retention and targeted achievement. Sterling Charter High School’s vision is to provide an alternative school educational experience for students in grades 9-12 experiencing disciplinary actions, and prepare them for college and professional careers by building on each student’s strengths, raising expectations and challenging them to expect success. Focusing on the needs of students, Sterling Charter High School creates small learning communities based on academic and vocational goals and socio-emotional development needs, providing individualized instruction, promoting safety, and bringing together students with similar needs.

The Delta Academy
Grades: 7-12

Formerly known as WestCare Charter School, The Delta Academy provides a safe and nurturing instructional environment in which students from various backgrounds in grades 7-12 expand their knowledge base to fulfill academic and personal goals through differentiated instruction and reinforcement of positive character traits. The Delta Academy has maintained a low student-to teacher-ratio of 12:1, thus causing major relief in students who need individual help. The Delta Academy offers a track for students who are college bound as well as those wishing to be trained in a vocation. The number of students graduating from the Delta Academy has more than doubled each year for the past 3 years. The Delta Academy offers all core classes, electives and vocational training courses. Electives include business classes, Drivers Education, and Spanish. Vocational courses include programs that lead to national certifications in IT, medical administrative assistant, medical coding and billing, and certified bookkeeper.

100 Academy of Excellence
Grades: K-8

100 Academy of Excellence’s mission is to help parents and guardians fulfill their responsibility to educate their children. Imagine 100 Academy of Excellence’s goal is to provide each of their students with a challenging, effective program of study and strong moral development in a safe, nurturing learning environment. They offer a seven hour school day for students in K-8 grades and a before- and after-school “I CARE” program from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. After-school and Saturday tutoring is provided to all students enrolled in K-8th grade. They also offer summer tutoring to current middle school student with a student/teacher ratio of 10 to 1. Their students are encouraged to explore educational networks so they can compete in a global society.

Somerset Academy is dedicated to equitable, high-quality education for all students.
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The Charter School Association of Nevada (CSAN) is the leading organization serving public charter schools in Nevada.

OUR MISSION
The mission of the Charter School Association of Nevada (CSAN) is to support and promote quality educational standards in charter schools through professional development, public advocacy, and public awareness.

ABOUT CSAN
The Association was founded in 2008 by leaders in the charter school community for the charitable and educational purpose to provide awareness, development, and resources to the general public and the charter schools in Nevada that currently have over 21,000 students enrolled.

The Association developed a mission grounded in an ideology to structure an awareness of public school choice through a fundamental principle that public charter schools are independent schools that have the freedom to be more innovative in exchange for higher accountability to increase student achievement.

The Association will work with various constituencies and stakeholder groups, including: public charter schools, parents, teachers, school board members, school administrators, community-based organizations, and public agencies to effectively organize, promote, advocate, inspire, and support Nevada’s public charter schools and the broader community looking for a choice in public schools.

CSAN is a 501(c)3.