



Marshall Emerson III
Head of School

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Deborah D. Hoover
The Burton D. Morgan Foundation
P.O. Box 1500
Akron, OH 44309-1500

Dear Deborah,

About a year ago, individuals involved with E CITY (Entrepreneurship: Connecting, Inspiring and Teaching Youth), an after-school entrepreneurship education program for inner city youth, saw that entrepreneurship was an effective "hook" that helped students value education and inspired them to stay in school. They wondered what impact might be made if students were immersed in the culture of the entrepreneur, five days a week, 8-10 hours a day. What if they could be educated in all academic subjects, in a setting where everyone commits to being the entrepreneurs of their own lives- valuing persistence, creativity, self-determination, courage, and the ability to see obstacles as opportunities?

At that time, the vision for Entrepreneurship Preparatory School (E Prep) was born. A year of intensive research into school design is now behind us, thanks to \$117,000 in planning grants from six organizations. Today we are working diligently to open E Prep in the summer of 2006, with 100 sixth graders. We will grow by one class of six graders each year until we are a grade 6-12 school. E Prep will be a college-preparatory Ohio community school (known to some as a charter school) characterized by: high structure, high expectations, high discipline, extended school day, extended school year, and half-day Saturday classes for those who are not meeting academic performance expectations. The school will offer 40% more instructional time than the traditional public schools. Through its increased involvement with the students, E Prep will make the promise that 100% of those who remain until the 12th grade will gain acceptance to a four-year college.

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This is a BIG promise. Like most charter schools, E Prep's students will be those who have not succeeded in the traditional public schools and on average will be two years behind, academically. My Board and I are confident that we can achieve our goals, however, because we have had the opportunity to study the best practices of urban charter schools. I am completing a year-long fellowship with Building Excellent Schools of Boston, and have visited and closely observed the operations of nearly 60 top-performing charter schools. In addition, I come to E Prep with five years of direct operational experience from the W.E.B. Dubois Academy in Cincinnati, which is one of the top-performing charter schools in Ohio.

We will also succeed because E Prep's founding board has solicited the support of influential individuals and foundations in Cleveland. The funding that will come to us from the state and the federal government will not be sufficient, and we are therefore asking the northeastern Ohio community to invest in this important educational alternative for students. We would like to submit a proposal to the Burton D. Morgan Foundation for \$100,000 of operating support for Entrepreneurship Preparatory School. It is our hope that the Foundation will receive our proposal.

Sincerely

Marshall Emerson III
Head of School & Co-Founder