MAYOR BALLARD PRESENTS CHARTER SCHOOL EXPLORATION GRANTS

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS EACH RECEIVE $11,500 IN FUNDING FROM WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION IN “CEOS FOR NEW SCHOOLS” COMPETITION, MAY APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL GRANTS

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today awarded five Indianapolis organizations each with $11,500 to explore new public charter school creation. The “CEOs for New Schools” grant competition, funded by the Walton Family Foundation, aims to build upon the successes of Mayor-sponsored charter schools and provide opportunities for more community-based organizations to engage in launching new charter schools.

“The future of our city depends on quality schools that offer an opportunity for our children to succeed,” Mayor Ballard said. “Our Mayor-sponsored charter school program establishes high standards and demands accountability. I look forward to one day welcoming the innovative proposals of these great community organizations into our successful charter school program.”

The Walton Family Foundation pledged to award up to $1.3 million to promote and establish new community-anchored Mayor-sponsored charter schools in Indianapolis. The “CEOs for New Schools” competition uses a $125,000 matching grant to assist five community-based organizations in considering establishing new schools. If these organizations successfully submit a charter school proposal and meet the Foundation’s quality criteria, an additional $250,000 in start-up funding will be provided for each new school.

The grant recipients may use the funding to research, and in some cases recruit, national models that fit the type of school the applicant plans to create; visit model schools; and prepare for the Mayor-sponsored charter school application process. In addition to the $11,500 development grant, the recipients will receive assistance from the City of Indianapolis Office of Education Innovation to explore the type of school they want to create and/or recruit to Indianapolis. The applicant will work with the Indiana Public Charter School Association and other support organizations on their leadership, organizational, financial, academic and facility plans.

The “CEOs for New Schools” grant recipients are:

Cathedral High School’s successful track record and 90-plus years as a private Catholic school in Indianapolis positions the school well to explore secular elementary charter school creation. Cathedral High School will collaborate with Seton Education Partners, an Education Entrepreneur Fellowship recipient from The Mind Trust. Seton Education Partners is a national nonprofit that provides guidance and assistance to urban Catholic
schools. Together, Cathedral High School and Seton Education Partners hope to provide underserved children with an academically excellent and character-building education.

**Children’s Bureau, Inc.** is a human services, child-centered nonprofit founded in Indianapolis in 1851. Children’s Bureau, Inc. opened the state’s first orphanage and has grown into a comprehensive, multi-service, regional agency with 17 service sites that served more than 26,000 endangered and maltreated children and their families this past year. Children’s Bureau, Inc. plans to offer students and their parents access to the bureau’s Family Support Center and to its programmatic offerings.

**Indiana Black Expo, Inc.**, founded in 1970, serves as an effective voice and vehicle for the social and economic advancement of African-Americans. With the help of more than 1,500 volunteers statewide and with 12 chapter affiliates across Indiana, Indiana Black Expo, Inc. provides year-round educational youth and family programs, services, and events, as well as health awareness campaigns and economic development initiatives. Having already helped establish one of the best-performing Mayor-sponsored charter schools, the Andrew J. Brown Academy, Indiana Black Expo, Inc. is interested in launching a second school to serve grades 6-12.

**Indiana University Health**, Indiana’s most comprehensive healthcare system, is comprised of hospitals, physicians, and allied services dedicated to providing preeminent care throughout Indiana and beyond. IU Health has a long history of supporting traditional public and private schools. From investing in the availability of high-quality teachers and supporting local charter schools through joint-purchasing arrangements to deploying thousands of volunteers in partnership with the United Way to carry out a kindergarten readiness campaign, IU Health’s commitment to education in furtherance of its mission has long extended beyond the many doctors, nurses, and allied health professional it educates each year. Exploring charter school creation would be its next foray into K-12 education.

**National Council on Educating Black Children (NCEBC) / Indianapolis Urban League / 100 Black Men / Marion County Courts** formed a community advisory steering committee eight months ago to explore the needs of urban youth in relation to education. NCEBC improves the achievement of African-American students, particularly boys, and prepares them to meet life’s challenges and become tomorrow’s leaders. For 45 years, the Indianapolis Urban League has served as a nonprofit, non-partisan, interracial community-based social service and civil rights organization. Indianapolis’ 100 Black Men chapter is one of more than 100 chapters nationwide. Its 125 Indianapolis members volunteer their time to serve as positive role models and mentors for youth involved in its various programs. The Marion County Courts provide a legal structure under which business, law, and order take place in Marion County and provide substantial experience in juvenile court involvement. These four partnering organizations see school creation as an extension of their missions.

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