

PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created Saturday, February 07, 2015

Updated Monday, February 09, 2015

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Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.

Please indicate whether an Applicant Group or an Existing Education Corporation is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, brand new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the formal and full name for the school you proposed, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	Truxton Academy Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	K-5
Number of Students During Initial Term	60

Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Cindy Denkenberger	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	K. Jeanetta Laudermilk	607-345-6466	kjlaudermilk@gmail.com

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

(No response)

Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(See pages 45-46 of the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	none
Partner Organization 1	none

Lead Applicant(s) Signature and Date

Use your PC mouse or your mobile device stylus to sign your name below.

Lead or Co-Applicant listed in section c above.

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping loops and lines, extending across the width of the page.

Date Signed (Lead or Co-Applicant)

2015/02/07

Thank you for completing this survey so that the Department may plan its review panel accordingly.

New York State Education Department
The Regents of the University of the State of New York
Charter School Office
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

To Whom It May Concern,

We are pleased to bring forward this Letter of Intent to apply for the Truxton Academy Charter School, to be located in Truxton, NY. This application is being presented with all components being addressed from the 2015 Request for Proposals Charter Application Kit for a Letter of Intent.

Applicant Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Media Contact
Kimberlee Laudermilk
(607)345-6466
KJLaudermilk@gmail.com

Applicant Founding Group

Lucinda Denkenberger is a retired, multi-aged early-education and elementary teacher. Cindy received a bachelors degree from SUNY Oswego and has a lifetime of experience cooperatively working with fellow teachers to create and implement curriculum for multi-grade levels. Cindy is a supportive community member and has been instrumental in the research and design of Truxton Academy Charter School.

Elaine Sturges has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Cornell. She has 10 years of early childhood teaching experience and 16 years of experience in facilitating hands-on nature education programs for children. Elaine taught in a Charter School and has experience in securing funding for 2 statewide nature education programs. She is retired and volunteers at the local elementary school.

Stuart Young is a Senior Partner and CEO of East River Dairy LLC, the largest dairy farm in our community. He was valedictorian of his high school class and continued on to major in Farm Business Management at Cornell University. Stuart is a leader in the agriculture community, holding professional offices within agricultural groups and

community groups. He has continued to strive to involve the local youth in agriculture since 1974.

Krysta Austen is the owner of a home daycare, a licensed EMT and has a background in accounting and finance with a Bachelor's degree from Cortland State. Krysta is a very active School Community Association (similar to PTA) member.

Tracey Cartland has worked for Upstate Medical University for 14 years. She is an administrator for Vocera, technology used within hospitals to assist in communication between staff. She is a mother of two with a passion for the community and exceptional instruction in her children's education.

Kay Reakes has a Special Education Teaching Assistant Certificate A.A.S. from Cazenovia. Kay has 15 years of experience as a preschool teacher. She is a community leader and continues to educate through hands on learning opportunities facilitated through Reakes' Country Goods Farm Market, which she co-owns. Kay is a marketing genius who shines through her business, Reakes' Country Goods, with customers all over the Northeast.

Adam Aldrich is graduate of SUNY Morrisville with a degree in Environmental Science. and finance chair for the Truxton Methodist Church. He has over fifteen years working for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Adam owns and operates Morgan Hill Maple Syrup Company. He has continued to prove himself as an honest, trustworthy and reliable asset to our community. He is a proud parent of three young children.

K. Jeanetta Laudermilk is a youth coordinator and manager of New Penn Farm. She has 8 years of experience in agriculture most of which was facilitating learning experiences for youth. Jeanetta has experience in social media and marketing and manages the social media for two businesses and the community group of over 400 supporters backing the Truxton Academy Charter School. When not on the farm, Jeanetta is on the Cortland County 4-H Board, 4-H Club Leader, and Alternate Delegate for Cooperative Resources International.

Board of Trustees

Cindy Denkenberger

Elaine Sturges

Stuart Young

Krysta Austen

Adam Aldrich

Kimberlee Laudermilk

Holding one position for community appointment through PTA/SCA group.

Name of Charter School

Truxton Academy Charter School

Location

Discussions have been ongoing with the local school district regarding the use of the district school building in Truxton, NY. Dependent on the actions of the school board following the planned closure of the school at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, and dependent upon this proposal process, we will locate our school within that district building or within another privately owned property in Truxton. Pending acceptance of this letter of intent, we will have more security on the location.

Enrollment Projections

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2015-2016	-----	10	10	10	10	10	10	-----	60
2016-2017	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	10	90
2017-2018	12	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	117
2018-2019	12	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	117
2019-2020	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	120

Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization

None

Opening date

September 2015

Charter term

5 yrs, 2020

Mission

The mission of Truxton Academy Charter School is to develop the next generation of problem-solving leaders by engaging in project-based learning, enhanced by integrated technology. Cultivating enthusiasm for rural life through collaboration between local business, community members and young learners and their families, will benefit both students and community.

School Overview

Project-based learning (PBL) is designed to provide students with progressively specialized instruction and hands-on learning experience. This teaching method has

proven successful through youth education for the past century (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA, 4H). Taking proven methods and integrating 21st century innovation and technology will help create problem solvers, group collaborators and learners for the future. Gardening, hatching chicks, bottle-feeding calves, monitoring forces of weather and nature and gaining appreciation for our local resources are real-life learning experiences intended to be the platform for creating real life learning situations. Our partial replication charter school, Walton 21st Century Rural Life Center, Walton, Kansas, created this learning atmosphere that has proved successful in bringing these rewarding activities to children, including those with special needs and those who may be economically disadvantaged.

It is our goal to promote the understanding in New York State that we value the importance of education in the rural life style setting that produces the food to feed our country. As our State promotes local agriculture with large agri-tourism dollars we hope to promote the education of future leaders in the agricultural industry in the setting of rural farms. This not only preserves agricultural land, but also the lifestyle needed to educate children in rural settings. It is imperative that NYS does not close the door on rural American education.

Replication of High Quality School Models

The charter school will be a partial replication of Walton 21st Century Rural Life Learning Center in Walton, Kansas. Walton 21st Century Rural Life Center was a K-4 elementary with enrollment falling below 100 students in 2007. As with many rural schools, they were at risk of closing the school and consolidating with neighboring school. The district made the decision to turn Walton into a charter school with project-based learning with an agricultural focus. The school is now on its second charter term and has been in the top 5% of schools in Kansas. It continues to exceed state test score averages in every classroom. Enrollment at Walton Rural Life Center is now at maximum capacity of 170 students and has a waiting list for future enrollment.

The Truxton Academy Charter School has a similar scenario. We are in a rural community that excels in agriculture. The current school board has voted to close the doors of our local elementary school at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. This would remove these students from their current school and transport them away from their community to a larger school. Our goal is to create a learning environment similar to Walton Rural Life Center that will surpass the existing school test scores and enrollment for years to come.

Truxton Academy Charter School will be a replication of Walton 21st Century Rural Life Learning Center by continuing the following model areas:

- Project Based Learning
- Agriculture and Environmental Focus
- Each classroom will be partnered with a local agri-business.

- Rural-Life Lab within the school including a greenhouse, computer lab, community garden, animal barn and incubator.
- Family style meals to help foster respect and support.
- Lego-robotics to bring math and science concepts alongside creative and technical writing in grades 3-6.
- Virtual Relationships through live action video to observe nature and agriculture throughout the world.

Target Population and Community Served

Our target population is the children who are being displaced by the closing of our local elementary at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. We will expand our enrollment as our charter school becomes established.

Current community elementary school enrollment:

- 59% Economically Disadvantaged
- 15.3% Students with Disabilities
- 0% ELL

Retention of students will be achieved with individualized support, consistent interaction and input into project-based activities as well as strong community involvement.

The goal of Truxton Academy Charter School is to provide an educational opportunity to allow the majority of the students who will be displaced by the closing of the local elementary school to continue to be educated here in our community. A further goal is to enhance the teaching methods and learning environment to create a best fit with how children naturally learn. Currently there are no English language learners within the school. Because of the rural area and presence of migrant workers, we hope to reach out to ELL students with the help of one of our community members and resources, Janie Wilson. Janie Wilson is a collaborator on bilingual translator support for migrant children in our area who are not getting support in our district at this time. She is a former employee of the research foundation of SUNY as a bilingual migrant specialist and tutor. Janie studied the Spanish language at the Miguel Cervantes School of Spanish in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach has been ongoing through June 2014. Documents are attached; flyers, surveys, and letters of support. Social Media outreach has over 400 followers in support of our efforts to start a charter school in our community. <https://www.facebook.com/hartnettem>. Continued community outreach will continue through a community- wide informational flyer that will be mailed the first week of March with enrollment applications included.

NAME OF APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
<u>Cindy Denkenberger</u>	[REDACTED]	Retired
<u>Elaine Sturges</u>	[REDACTED]	Retired
<u>Stuart Young</u>	[REDACTED]	East River Dairy LLC
<u>Adam Aldrich</u>	[REDACTED]	NYS DEC
<u>Krysta Austen</u>	[REDACTED]	Little Sprouts Learning Center
<u>K. Jeanetta Laudermilk</u>	[REDACTED]	New Penn Farm
Reserved for PTA President		
<u>Kay Reakes</u>	[REDACTED]	Reakes' Country Goods

TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION***Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees**

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or No Continuing Role)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)	LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
Educator, Community Member	Trustee	officer	3 yr	Yes
Educator, Community Membr	Trustee	Trustee	3 yr	Yes
Business Owner, Community	Trustee	Trustee	3 yr	Yes
Parent, Business Owner, Con	Trustee	Trustee	2 yr	Yes
Parent, Business Owner, Con	Trustee	Trustee	2 yr	Yes
Parent, Youth Educator, Farr	Trustee	Trustee	2 yr	Yes
Parent/Teacher	Trustee	representative	1 yr	Yes
Parent, Educator, Business O	no continuing role	representative		no