



March 28, 2011

Dear Innovation Status Proposal Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Foundation for Educational Excellence in support of the innovation proposal being submitted by Vista Academy a Denver Public School's Multiple Pathway Center opening on the Evie G. Dennis Campus in August of 2011. At this critical time of turnaround in Denver's Far Northeast region, and with the high drop-out rate of students in Denver Public Schools we believe the approval of innovation status is critical to the success of Vista Academy's efforts to provide a high-performing option to "at-risk" students and their families in Denver Public Schools and specifically Far Northeast Denver.

Vista Academy is poised to address the multi-faceted needs of "at-risk" students across a large spectrum of programming and services by identifying, addressing, and moving past barriers allowing students to regain their Academic SWAGGER. The SWAGGER (s=scholars, w=world class, a=actively engaged in our community, g=go getters, g=global thinkers, e=enterprising, and r=relentless in our pursuit of an education) is at the core of what Vista Academy is proposing in its innovation plan. Granting Vista Academy innovation status will ensure that they will achieve their end result, which is to ensure that all students demonstrate mastery of 21st century skills and have a competitive edge grounded in a philosophy of academy excellence, leadership, global thinking, and exploration, service learning, advanced technological skills as well as culture and language acquisition.

As a community partner in the efforts to offer a fundamentally different educational landscape in the Far Northeast we urge you to grant Vista Academy the necessary innovation status to deliver the world-class education our students deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Schwartz
Executive Director