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## **HIGH PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOLS RECEIVE FIRST- EVER STATE GRANTS TO SHARE SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES WITH DISTRICT SCHOOL PARTNERS**

### ***Eight NYC Charter Schools Will Collaborate with Other Public Schools to Replicate Successful Programs, Share Best Practices, Adapt to Common Core Standards***

**(New York, NY, August 1, 2013)** Eight high performing New York City charter schools have received \$4.5 million in state grants to help share best practices through collaboration with partnering district schools, the New York City Charter School Center and New York City Department of Education announced today.

The schools selected represent some of the city's most successful public charter schools: Bronx Charter School for Excellence, Community Partnership Charter School, Democracy Prep Charter School, Family Life Academy Charter School, the Hellenic Classical Charter School, New York Center for Autism Charter School, Renaissance Charter School and Williamsburg Collegiate Charter School.

They will be paired up with district schools and work closely with principals and teachers to share their best practices, enhance professional development, help with adoption of the Common Core standards and provide instructional strategies to boost achievement, classroom management and school culture. Funding comes from the United States Department of Education's Charter Schools Program, administered by the New York State Education Department.

"These first-ever grants will help successful charter schools share what is working in their classrooms and help other schools benefit from their experience. That is the promise of charter schools and we are grateful to the State Education Department for creating opportunities for this collaboration to take place," said **James Merriman**, CEO of the New

York City Charter School Center. “I believe that not only will the charter schools be able to share some of their innovative and successful practices, but in doing so will learn from their district colleagues.”

“Over the last decade, we’ve delivered a remarkable transformation of our schools – and it’s because we’ve innovated like never before in City history. Our public charter schools have had the freedom to serve as incubators for innovation and best practices, which are shared across our system,” said the New York City Department of Education’s Senior Deputy Chancellor, **Marc Sternberg**. “If you turned back the clock to the days when there were just a handful of public charter schools, the best practice sharing happening today simply didn’t exist. The landscape has changed dramatically since, and with these grants, all of our public school students – be it in districts or charters – will benefit even more from the reforms we’ve implemented.”

Schools will work together to tailor their partnerships to meet their individual needs. Bronx Charter School for Excellence, for example, has received a half-million dollar grant to partner with P.S. 85 - The Great Expectations School - to facilitate co-teaching or team-teaching structures and staff professional development projects, including strategic use of summer institute programs. State dollars will also fund ongoing trainings throughout the year, tutoring or academic instruction for students behind grade level, and strategies to coach teachers on using formative and summative assessment data to inform instruction.

“Bronx Charter School for Excellence believes in replication by collaboration and that the role of charter schools is to work with other schools who serve the same population of students to everyone’s benefit. We are excited to receive this SED grant as it provides us with a funded structure to engage in sharing best practices benefiting both our school and P.S. 85,” said **Charlene Reid**, Head of School, Bronx Charter School for Excellence. “Both BCSE and P.S. 85 are totally committed to the work that we need to do together to provide the best education for all students. Our schools submitted this grant application together, with a plan to focus on literacy and parent engagement, but our collaboration will surely expand into many different areas in order to strengthen the community as a whole.”

“We’re excited, because this program reflects what we try to bring to our classrooms everyday – innovation and collaboration. District and charter schools can and should work well together, and they can grow and learn from each other on behalf of kids. We’re two different types of public school options with the same goal: to serve kids well and prepare them for their futures,” said Principal **Ted Husted** of P.S. 85 – The Great Expectations School, a district school recipient partnering with the Bronx Charter School For Excellence. “We look forward to working with our partner in sharing best practices, developing our teachers, and enhancing the experiences of our students. This grant demonstrates once again that, when adults work together, we can achieve great outcomes for children.”

“Our teachers and leaders have worked hard at developing techniques and strategies that help put students that are several grade levels behind on the path to college,” said **J.T. Leaird**, Principal at Williamsburg Collegiate Charter School, one of the 38 Uncommon Schools. “At Uncommon Schools, we have been sharing these innovative techniques with

other schools for some time, but this grant gives us the opportunity to share our best practices, as well as to collect hard data about these practices' effectiveness, in a way that will affect potentially thousands more low-income students. We are looking forward to working with our district partner schools on this effort.”

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### **About the New York City Charter School Center**

The New York City Charter School Center is an independent non-profit committed to fostering an environment in which public charters can open and flourish, and, through their innovative approaches, provide models for improving all public schools. The Charter Center helps new charter schools get started, supports existing schools, and engages the charter school community around key issues.

### **About NYC's Charter Schools**

Charter schools are free, independently run public schools that are able to innovate in their classroom structures, curriculum, and teaching methods. In return, they're held to higher standards of accountability. More than 90 percent of the City's charter school students are African-American or Latino, and more than 75 percent are from low-income families. There will be 183 public charter schools serving students in all five boroughs for the 2013-14 school year.