



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### DC CHARTERS TO OPEN THEIR DOORS TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION *Tours of DC Charters to Highlight Contributions*

(Washington, DC 4/27/01) In Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, members of Congress and their staffs will board a school bus to tour two District of Columbia charters. Congress is highlighting the unique and lasting contributions of charter schools on the national education scene during National Charter Schools Week celebrated this year April 30-May 4. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the nation's first charter school law.

The Cesar Chavez Charter School and the Community Academy Public Charter School will open their doors to the Congressional delegation, whose Honorary Chairs to the *Congressional Salute to Charter Schools* include, Senators Judd Gregg and Joseph Lieberman and Representatives John Boehner and Tim Roemer.

Ohio Rep. John Boehner said, "Charter schools have challenged the status quo and have improved education opportunities for thousands of children. What we have also seen is that competition from charter schools has brought about much needed improvements and change in traditional public schools."

Indiana Rep. Tim Roemer said, "I have visited other charter schools and what I found was a public school working hard to bring about new ideas and innovation to children – but what I also found was a place where children were happy and learning."

Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman said, "After ten years, we have seen that charter schools have spurred innovation, created more opportunities, and ultimately have helped improve the quality of education for thousands of American children."

New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg said, "The driving force behind educational innovation and improvement is school competition. Parents, teachers and communities around the country have found that the charter schools choice was right for them."

(more)

## Congressional Salute to Charter Schools Tour Information

Those interested in joining their colleagues on Tuesday, May 1 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm are asked to call the Center for Education Reform at (202) 822-9000 to reserve a space on the school bus. The bus will leave from the Rayburn House Office Building (South Capital Street side).

Members of the press are welcome to join the members on the bus but must RSVP to Mary Kayne Heinze at (202) 822-9000 to ensure space. For information on other CER activities during National Charter Schools Week, go to: [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com)

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### SCHOOL INFORMATION

Cesar Chavez Charter School  
Irasema Salcido (Principal)  
Cesar Chavez Public Charter  
High School for Public Policy  
1346 Florida Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 387-6980  
<http://www.cesarchavezhs.org>

TOUR TIME: 9:15-10:25 am

The vision of the Chavez School is to develop young people who will make this country a better place by influencing public policies that affect their communities.

The school has four academic performance goals. Chavez graduates will: (1) achieve high school competency; (2) improve their Stanford 9 scores; (3) enroll in four-year colleges; and (4) gain skills and knowledge about the discipline of public policy.

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#### Community Academy Public Charter School

Mr. Kent Amos (Principal)  
1300 Allison Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20011  
(202) 234-KIDS  
[www.ufi.org](http://www.ufi.org)

TOUR TIME: 10:45 –11:45 am

Community Academy is a standards based public charter school founded in 1997 by the Urban Family Institute. The school's mission is to create a meaningful connection between the school day experiences of children and their after-school activities at Kids House – another UFI program.

Other Members of Congress who have added their name to the *Congressional Salute to Charter Schools* include:

Congressman Chris Smith, (NJ)  
Congressman Patrick Tiberi (OH)  
Congressman Asa Hutchinson (AR)  
Congressman Bob Filner (CA)

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The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.

