



Office of the Dean

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## MEMORANDUM

June 24, 2002

**TO:** Virinder Moudgil  
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**FROM:** Mary L. Otto *Mary*  
Dean

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of The Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences

There were 20 applications for the open Public School Academy (PSA) slot. Both the fiscal and curriculum sub committees of the Public School Academies Advisory Review Committee (PSAARC) worked long and hard to carefully review all applications and make their recommendation. Of the 20 applications, The Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences was selected based upon the following:

- 1) An organizational framework already functioning successfully, with a large parental and community support base. The PSAARC noted in particular that this PSA includes:
  - An extended school day and school year
  - Every family is given a computer
  - Technology is integrated into classroom activities
  - Appropriate core curriculum based on the Michigan framework
  - Community social services have access to building and students
  - A variety of established after school activities
  - Support services for special education students, with the planned addition of 2 certified special education teachers.
  - Continual improvement model for student/program assessment that includes:
    - Quarterly learning contracts with families
    - Benchmark Testing System
    - Improving MEAP scores (better than Detroit Public Schools)
    - Quarterly parent conferences
  - The Concept of Houses where a set of teachers work with the same set of students

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**2) Fiscal viability including:**

- Retirement plans
- Lease agreement
- Contract with Edison (management company)

The PSAARC believes that the Academy has established a track record and has the potential to continue towards its goal of excellence under Oakland's authorization. The Academy was originally authorized by Central Michigan University. The contract expires July 17th, so there is some sense of urgency with respect to putting the item on the Board agenda for the July meeting.

A site visit was completed on Monday June 25, 2002 and Associate Dean Pickard reported that the visit confirmed the PSAARC analysis. Thus, I am recommending to you and President Russi that Oakland University charter The Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Please contact me or Dawn Pickard if you require further information.

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