



April 24, 2023

Esteemed Nevada State Public Charter School Authority members, professional staff, and charter application reviewers:

This purpose of this letter is to express my full and enthusiastic support of the ThrivePoint Academy Nevada charter application.

I have worked with Dr. Tim and Shannon Smith over the past twelve or so years.

Tim and I initially collaborated as alternative school leader colleagues. Tim was integral in the founding of the Arizona Alternative Education Consortium (AZ AEC). I don't know how we would have done it without him. He used his expertise in setting up our non-profit organization. The AZ AEC has flourished since it was founded in 2011. Tim consistently supported the AZ AEC through its infancy and toddler years, then as it "grew up" as an association by providing the services of Learning Matters Educational Group (LMEG) staff. The AZ AEC has had consistent quality treasurer/financial services throughout its time as a corporation.

Charter schools must be able to provide the public both a solid education business and a quality education. The LMEG alternative charter schools in Arizona, now the ThrivePoint High Schools - formerly the e-Institutes, set a standard of quality. Tim Smith and Shannon Creamer Smith have assembled and grown some of the finest alternative high school leaders in the state of Arizona.

In addition to my volunteer work with Tim and Shannon, I have been honored to grow in my relationship with them. For the past few years, I have collaborated with ThrivePoint in our work on ThrivePoint's alternative school accountability, as well as all aspects of achievement. I am proud that in a few short years, ThrivePoint staff has improved the schools' Letter Grades, Arizona's classification labels, to B-Alt. I project, based on empirical data, ThrivePoint's Letter Grades each year, as Arizona state entities usually do not issue school Letter Grades until late fall of following school year. I enthusiastically and confidently share that my projections are ThrivePoint high schools in Arizona will maintain their B-Alts and possibly achieve the highest rating, A-Alt. Perhaps I should add that my projections have been spot on once Letter Grades are issued.

If there is anything more I can do to support this Nevada charter application, please feel free to contact me via Dr. Tim or Shannon Smith or Jason Guinasso.

Respectfully,

Amy Schlessman, Ph.D.
Founding President
Arizona Alternative Education Consortium

Vision: College & career (post-secondary education & workplace) ready school completion through accountable alternative education