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Contacts:

Tony Monfiletto, Executive Director  
Center for School Leadership  
tmonfo@gmail.com  
(505) 573-4024

Moises Padilla, Apprentice Principal  
Center for School Leadership  
mpadill3@yahoo.com

**APS CHARTERS ITS FIRST HIGH SCHOOL IN SEVEN YEARS**  
*School plans to grow the next generation of Albuquerque entrepreneurs*

**Albuquerque, NM** – The Albuquerque Public School Board approved its first charter high school in seven years last week with a vote of five in favor and two abstentions. The new high school, planned for the South Valley, was chartered to address some of our city’s most pressing economic and educational needs. It adopts an innovative new model for education, focused on providing students with relevant and engaging project-based learning that responds to the needs of our city’s fast-growing entrepreneurial economy.

This new high school is part of an existing network of charter schools called the Leadership High School Network, which is committed to reengaging students through adaptable, relevant, project-based learning and community engagement. Curricula at the Leadership High Schools are developed in partnership with Albuquerque’s leading businesses and organizations to ensure students gain the skills they need to be successful problem-solvers, critical thinkers, and future leaders. This new high school will draw on the knowledge and needs of Albuquerque’s entrepreneurship sector to inform curriculum and ensure students receive an excellent education that is rigorous, engaging, and most importantly, prepares them for the future.

**“I am so full of joy, excitement, and hope.”** Said Moises Padilla, incoming Executive Director of the new school and a WK Kellogg Foundation Fellow. **“It has been seven years since APS authorized a new school. This marks a great opportunity. We will provide students who otherwise might be disengaged from their education with the skills and support they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world. It is such an honor to have the opportunity to open a school like this in the heart of the South Valley, my home.”**

The new high school plans to open in August 2016. Funding is provided by the State of New Mexico with startup support from private sources. A four-acre plot of land off Rio Bravo and Coors has been donated by Steve Maestas of NAI Maestas & Ward Commercial Real Estate as the permanent home for the school. The school will occupy a temporary location while construction is underway.

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*The new entrepreneurship-focused high school is part of The Leadership High School Network (LHSN), a network of high schools focused on developing future leaders for industries important to New Mexico’s economy. LHSN schools seek to provide students with the necessary skills and support to become successful professionals and meet the needs of our state’s future workforce.*