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**Recommendation for Accreditation Confirms Center for Charter Schools at CMU has Quality Authorizing Practices**  
*Michigan's first charter school authorizer is among the first in the nation to receive accreditation recommendation*

MT. PLEASANT, MI — The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University has completed a rigorous accreditation process and has been recommended for accreditation by AdvancED, one of the world's leading third-party accreditation organizations.

An external review team of trained individuals from across the country, led by AdvancED, visited the Center for an extensive, three-day onsite review of the Center's authorizing practices in comparison to the AdvancED Accreditation Standards. The team found that the Center met the requirements for accreditation and announced that it will be recommending the Center for accreditation. Their recommendation will be reviewed and acted upon by the national AdvancED Accreditation Commission in June. AdvancED serves approximately 32,000 public and private schools and school systems in more than 70 countries.

"Earning accreditation from AdvancED, one of the world's leading accreditation organizations, confirms that we are meeting our mission of transforming public education," said Cindy Schumacher, the Center's executive director. "We are proud to lead the effort to improve accountability among charter school authorizers and be among the first charter school authorizers to be recommended for accreditation."

AdvancED's accreditation process is a rigorous and complete review of all aspects of authorizing. It reviewed the Center's processes and practices against six standards including 30 indicators and 14 mandatory assurances. Some of the criteria the Center was evaluated on include:

- increasing transparency by requiring charter contracts to be posted online;
- prohibiting the practice of "authorizer shopping";
- preventing conflicts of interest on charter school boards; and
- ensuring intervention in low performing schools.

(more)

———— THE GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER ————  
**CENTER FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
———— CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY ————

“Our rigorous accreditation process represents a strong accountability measurement for authorizers,” said Jared Burkhart, executive director of the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers, the organization that assisted AdvancED in the development of the authorizer accreditation standards and assurances. “AdvancED’s recommendation for the Center to be accredited confirms the Center’s position as a national leader in authorizing. Michigan authorizers remain committed to accountability for the schools they authorize and authorizer accreditation will lead to greater accountability for authorizers.”

According to Schumacher, the Center provides an additional layer of accountability for schools. “We are dedicated to implementing an effective and equitable oversight system that holds our 62 charter public schools accountable,” said Schumacher. “Oversight is paramount in providing a quality education option for all students. We are most excited to see the transformational impact our schools can have on students’ lives.”

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**About The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools**

CMU, the first university authorizer of charter public schools, is a state and national leader in the charter school movement, with over 20 years of experience launching, supporting and overseeing charter public schools. CMU created The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools to support the schools it charters. The university currently authorizes 62 schools serving more than 30,000 students throughout the state. For more information, please visit [www.TheCenterForCharters.org](http://www.TheCenterForCharters.org).