

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 11, 2016

CONTACT: Brad Wever  
517-364-9600

**Accreditation Confirms CMU's Commitment to Quality Authorizing  
*Michigan's first charter school authorizer is among the first in the nation to  
be accredited***

MT. PLEASANT, MI – The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University has been accredited by AdvancED, one of the world's leading third-party accreditation organizations. This designation provides further confirmation that through its authorizing practices, the Center is truly transforming public education for all students.

CMU began providing school choice in Michigan more than twenty years ago when it became the nation's first university authorizer, and in the time since, it has continued to raise the standards by which all authorizers and their schools should operate. In the tradition of leading the way, CMU became one of the first charter school authorizers in the country to become accredited, and it believes that this is just another step towards providing positive outcomes for all students.

"Our team works hard every day to ensure all students in Michigan have access to high-quality educational options. But our work is never done and we are always seeking ways to improve as an authorizer," said Cindy Schumacher, the Center's executive director.

Charter school authorizers can play a significant role in the success of their schools. The goal of accreditation is to develop a mechanism that would ensure that all authorizers are doing more than simply meeting their statutory responsibilities, and that they hold both their schools and themselves accountable.

"Accreditation raises the bar for authorizers in Michigan," 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. "The Center's commitment to accountability for the schools they authorize and themselves confirms that they are a national leader in charter school authorizing."

"A quality education can be transformational for students and communities," said Schumacher. "By holding schools to high academic standards and implementing an effective and equitable oversight system, CMU is providing students with opportunities to thrive."

(more)

The Center's accreditation status was made official by the national AdvancED Accreditation Commission at their meeting in June following the completion of an intensive accreditation process involving an external review panel made up of experts from around the country. Despite the very rigorous and comprehensive review process, the Center met the requirements for accreditation and significantly exceeded the overall network average.

For more information on the accreditation process and the criteria used to evaluate authorizers, please see the Center's previous press release available [here](#).

###

**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).