

ARTEC Regional Professional Technical Charter School Report September 2007

As ARTEC Charter School enters its second year, the organization continues to evolve and improve. ARTEC Charter school is very grateful to Minidoka School District serving as the chartering entity.

With the passage last year of S 1088, ARTEC no longer runs its own payroll. All staff is under contract to their home districts or to the Minidoka School District acting as the fiscal agent for ARTEC. This avoids the necessity of part time teaching contracts and allows all teachers to remain under contract to their home districts. ARTEC changed its funding formula to accommodate the change in teacher contracts. Unfortunately, the revised funding formula has needed an additional change to assure funding equity among participating school districts. Michelle Deluna has been a big help in developing this revision. The revision essentially moves district reimbursement for ARTEC students from employee fringe benefits to discretionary funding and increases net reimbursements to school districts. ARTEC Charter School is in the process of obtaining approval for this funding change from the ARTEC Board and from participating school districts.

Current law provides that ARTEC salary based apportionment be based upon the average charter school index. Since this index is much lower than the actual index for ARTEC technical teachers as well as for most of the participating school districts, the index needs to be changed to the actual ARTEC index. This will require legislative action. All other charter schools and school districts receive their actual index rather than an average. We will be working with local legislators to effect this change in S 1088.

ARTEC had an excellent workshop this last summer on curriculum integration for its academic and technical teachers. Curriculum integration simply applies understands and concepts from one discipline to another so that courses are not taught in isolation and so that classes are more meaningful and relevant to students.

ARTEC has received approval for a \$150,000 federal charter school grant for this school year. This grant must be used for start up expenses and cannot be used for routine operational expenses. To a large extent, the grant will provide teacher training or staff development, equipment, and program development.

The Minidoka staff has provided tremendous assistance for ARTEC Charter School. Dr. Rogers' leadership support, and help in solving problems is much appreciated as are the particular efforts of Michelle Deluna, Kaye Quesnell, Diane Nielsen, Margery Sneddon, Betty Miller, Sarah Jenks. Other central office staff has also been very helpful.

The Minidoka School Board's support has been invaluable in getting legislation passed and in generally advancing the concept of a regional professional technical charter school.

Submitted by Nick Hallett, ARTEC Charter School Director/Principal