



Public Charter High School

February 23, 2007

Dear Friend of Thurgood Marshall Academy:

We write to update you on two particularly significant accomplishments.

Successful Five-Year Review and Full Charter Continuance

The Public Charter School Board (PCSB) unanimously voted on January 22, 2007, to grant Thurgood Marshall Academy a full continuance of our charter.

At the meeting, the PCSB complimented our educational program and highlighted the strength of our efforts to improve student performance. In particular, they commended the implementation of our benchmark assessment system and our enhanced professional development program. The PCSB also noted our successful completion of the Five-Year Program Development Review and offered praise for our development of a state-of-the art school facility in Southeast DC and for our presence in the long under-served Ward 8 community.

\$5.3 Million Savings Using New Markets Tax Credits

On February 22, 2007, Thurgood Marshall Academy became the first school in Washington, DC to close on the most comprehensive version of a New Markets Tax Credits transaction, which will save the school substantial revenues related to our new facility. This innovative transaction refinances the debt that we acquired to renovate and expand our unparalleled facility, which provides our students with 13 state-of-the-art classrooms, three purpose-built science laboratories outfitted for a high school curriculum, an interactive library and media studies center, and a moot courtroom. The transaction ensures that dollars we receive from donors directly support student programs and takes full advantage of the New Markets Tax Credits program, which was created by Congress to attract corporate investment in low-income communities.

The PCSB's vote of full continuance and our successful completion of the New Markets Tax Credits transaction tell our parents that past success—hard-earned by our students, faculty and staff—has set the stage for future achievement at Thurgood Marshall Academy. They also provide an unambiguous declaration of Thurgood Marshall Academy's long-term sustainability to all of the supporters who helped to make our school what it is and what it will become. And these achievements tell the young people of Anacostia that Thurgood Marshall Academy will be here to provide them with a high school education equal to their dreams.

Based on the most recent administration of the District-wide standardized test, Thurgood Marshall Academy offers the greatest added value of any public school in Washington, DC. There is not a single high-performing school in the entire District of Columbia, not just in Ward 8, whose students outscore their peers by such a significant margin.

We are proud to have you as a partner in our efforts, and as always, we are grateful for your support and commitment to helping Thurgood Marshall Academy advance student achievement in Southeast DC.

Yours,

Joshua Kern
Co-Founder & President

Kevin Downey
Chair, Board of Trustees