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WASHINGTON'S CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION AUTHORIZES A NEW CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL TO OPEN

**THE COMMISSION IS CONFIDENT THAT THE APPROVED APPLICANT WILL CREATE
A HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOL TO SERVE STUDENTS MOST IN NEED**

Olympia, WA – Yesterday, Washington State's Charter School Commission (the Commission) announced their approval and authorization of one application to open a charter public school in Washington. The charter applicant, Ashe' Preparatory Academy (Ashe' Prep), is projected to begin serving Washington students in K-8 grade in the Skyway/West Hill neighborhood beginning in Fall 2019.

The charter approved featured in its application a strong commitment to student achievement and serving students through community-focused projects and studies, culturally-responsive teaching methods and student leadership development.

Dr. Debra Sullivan, Ashe' Prep School Founder, says her vision for Ashe' is that "all students and graduates know how to take action to shape their world."

"The Commission congratulates Ashe' Preparatory Academy, Dr. Sullivan and her team, and the communities and children Ashe' will serve," said Steve Sundquist, Charter School Commission Chair. "We engaged in one of the most rigorous approval processes in the country. Ashe' and its thoughtful model (outlined in its application) is really going to go a long way towards serving all children academically and building self-esteem."

Ashe' will be open to all students with an emphasis on providing instruction and learning opportunities to those students underserved by the current system.

Ashe' Prep will join 10 other commission-authorized charter public schools two of which ... (Willow and Impact) will open this fall.

The Commission's evaluation process, informed by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, has included thorough reviews of planned education programs, school finance, school operations/governance, and in-person interviews with applicants. In addition, the Commission has hosted public forums, which have provided opportunities for applicants, families and interested educators to engage directly with the Commission.

Washington State law allows for up to eight charter schools to be established each year – for a total of 40 charters over five years.

About Washington State's Charter School Commission

Washington State's Charter School Commission was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and to hold charters accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington's charter school law.

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