



# CITY ACADEMY

Excellence and Innovation in Academics and Citizenship

Accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools

555 East 200 South Salt Lake City, UT 84102 801-596-8489

[www.cityacademyslc.org](http://www.cityacademyslc.org)

A Public Charter School Serving Grades 7–12

Summer 2006

## We're On The Move !

Initially opening on the westside with some time spent on the eastside of the Salt Lake Valley, City Academy now makes an exciting move to the heart of downtown Salt Lake City! Our recently leased building, located 555 East 200 South, is the perfect location, as it is in close proximity to the wonderful educational, cultural, and business amenities Salt Lake City has to offer.

The school has long awaited an opportunity like this where students can engage directly with and be an integral part of what makes Salt Lake City so unique. City Academy students will now be able to conveniently attend art and performing arts events, take advantage of the state-of-the-art library facilities, become involved in the city's social and political scene, and participate in a more diverse array of service learning opportunities. The new location is within

walking distance of the downtown proper and provides easy access to TRAX for transportation to the University of Utah and other educational venues.

City Academy's new downtown campus is slated



Front view of City Academy's new location at 555 East 200 South in Salt Lake City.

to open its doors during the first week of September, 2006. The new building, formerly the home of several downtown businesses, will be remodeled over the Summer and customized to meet the educational needs of its student body. Incoming and current students can receive updated information about the school's progress

via our website at [www.cityacademyslc.org](http://www.cityacademyslc.org). For registration information or any other questions about the programs at City Academy, call our hotline at 596-8489. All calls will be returned in a timely manner throughout the move and the construction of the new campus.

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## Message From City Academy's Director

Charter schools have been in the news quite a bit lately, and not all of it has been positive. Some communities want more of a voice in where a new charter school locates. Charter management organizations are being questioned about the benefits they are actually providing charter schools, and for what price. Some parents who choose charters are happy, some are not. Some parents see "choice" as a revolving door and they churn their students through one school after another. Legislators are wondering about the unregulated growth of charter schools in Utah – currently 4% of Utah's school children attend a charter school.

There are growing pains associated with every new endeavor. However, City Academy is excited to now be entering its seventh year with new vigor and stability. We do not rely on an external charter management group. We have built a sound organization with quality staff who are developing and managing our school with oversight by our dedicated Board of Trustees. For two consecutive years, our business manager received an award from the Utah State Office of Education for his high quality financial management.

In statute, the state charges all charter schools with the mission to be innovative and requires reporting from each school on their innovative practices. I am delighted to share some of this year's report with you. To begin with, City Academy teaches the mandated state core curriculum in unique and innovative ways with standards-focused project-based learning (PBL). PBL is a systematic teaching method that engages students in learning knowledge and skills through an extended inquiry process. It is structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed tasks that challenge students, integrate curricular areas, promote higher-order thinking skills, and engage students in

an education they will remember and use.

Additionally, since its inception, City Academy has focused on innovation in assessment practices. We are committed to evolving a meaningful system of evaluation and progress reporting through demonstration of knowledge and abilities. We have developed and implemented a competency-based assessment system for quarterly reporting of students' learning and progress that provides information to parents and students well beyond that of traditional letter grades. After five years of development, we have created a method of reporting learning outcomes that represents authentic demonstration of knowledge and ability in particular subject areas. We are pleased to report that college admissions folks agree with us, and are happy to award our students with scholarships based on their City Academy progress reports.

City Academy is proud to be the only school in Utah, joining thousands nationwide, following the principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES). These principles guide our emphasis on small classes and a small school, personalized learning, equity in learning opportunities for all students, assessment through demonstration of competency. Perhaps most importantly CES principles set a tone of decency and trust in the school. Notably, City Academy teachers, students, and administrators have presented sessions about our work at the annual national CES conference each year since 2002.

We know there are now many choices in public education and we are pleased with our growing school community and our work together to build, not only a great little school, but also a model of successful innovative practices that can help improve public education.

**Sonia Woodbury, PhD**  
Executive Director

*"We envision a world  
in which all children  
receive the nurturance,  
guidance, and resources  
they need  
to reach their  
fullest potential."*

Vision Statement of  
The Coalition of Essential Schools

## THANK YOU 2005-2006 DONORS AND FRIENDS

City Academy is grateful for the support of our donors and friends. We would like to recognize the following local foundations for their continued commitment to progressive education at City Academy: George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, R. Harold Burton Foundation, and Ronald McDonald House Charities. The generosity and hard work of all our Donors and Friends make it possible to bring our students the best possible educational experience in a supportive and enriching atmosphere. Thank You.

### **\$10,000 and Above**

State Farm Insurance Company  
Jeff and Sonia Woodbury

### **\$5,000-\$9,999**

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Theater Company  
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Target  
Utah State University  
Theater Department  
Woodbury Corporation

*"City Academy seems like a place where there is a lot of  
space for learning."*

City Academy Student  
January, 2006

# City Academy Welcomes New Board Members and Staff

John Kesler, Chair of the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire City Academy community, welcomes three new and outstanding board members. Read about their exciting and varied backgrounds below:

## **Bob Anderson**

Bob is the Director of Real Estate Financing for Zions First National Bank Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Seattle. He has worked at Zions for almost three decades. Bob completed his undergraduate work at BYU and received an MBA from Chaminade University of Hawaii. Bob served 17 years in active military service and was assigned to special operations for part of that time. Bob is committed to improving public education and finding support for charter schools that are leading the way.

## **Martha Ball**

Martha taught Social Studies for 26 years in Utah and California and is listed as Who's Who Among American Teachers. She currently serves as the Director of the Utah section of the 3Rs Project, a national program designed to train teachers on implementing the First Amendment's Religious Liberty Clauses in their teaching and curriculum. Martha holds a B.A.s from the University of Utah in both History and Secondary Educational Studies. Notably, she is the recipient of a Hays Fulbright Award to study in India and two National Endowments for the Humanities Awards. A long-time City Academy supporter, Martha brings many skills, insights and connections that will sustain and strengthen our school's mission.

## **Joe Krella**

Joe is president and CEO of UHA, Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association. In this capacity, he oversees the administration of the 47-member hospital association, which represents hospitals and health systems operating throughout the state of Utah. He holds a B.S. in human services from the University of Scranton, and an MPA in Health Services Administration from Marywood College. Joe's business and community connections are valuable assets.

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## **Sara Moses – New Office Manager**

Sara Moses grew up in Salt Lake City, but spent the last 3 years in San Francisco and Hollywood. She has worked in many fields, including non-profit healthcare and archeology. When Sara was in San Francisco, she made her living as a professional dog-walker and knitting teacher. In Hollywood she managed a private cooking school, where she learned to make mayonnaise from scratch and ate way too many warm pecan sticky buns. Sara enjoys riding her bike to work every day and wishes her helmet didn't look so ridiculous on her.

*"I just can't tell you*

*how much*

*my daughter*

*has changed*

*and*

*blossomed*

*since coming to*

*City Academy.*

*I have*

*so much to*

*thank you for."*

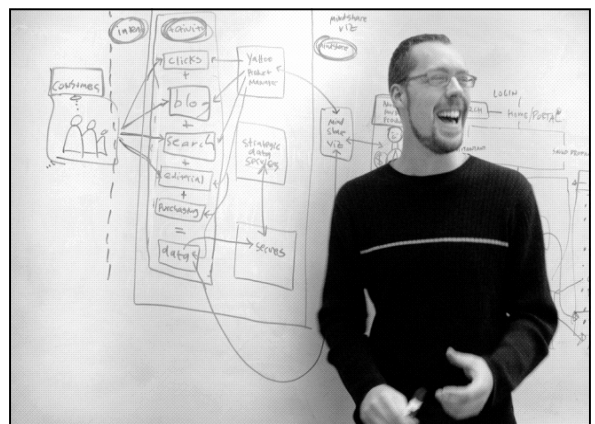
City Academy Parent  
February, 2006

## SCHOOL LAUNCHES CAPITAL PROJECTS CAMPAIGN

To accommodate the student body and its wide variety of educational endeavors, City Academy plans an extensive refurbishing of its newly leased urban space located at 555 East 200 South in Salt Lake City. Formerly utilized as office space, the building's interior will be reconfigured to accommodate large and small classrooms, study areas, science and computer labs, a common gathering area, kitchen facilities, administrative offices, and rooftop physical education and recreation. The 2-story brick building has entrances on both the south and north sides which open up to generous off-street parking. The building's many windows create a bright and airy feeling.

The goal of the Capital Projects Campaign is to raise \$250,000 over a two-year period. It consists of two phases. The initial phase will focus on acquiring \$150,000 to cover the costs of basic space reconfiguration and building refurbishing. Phase I projects are slated to be completed by the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year. In Phase II, the Campaign will raise an additional \$100,000 to fully equip two science labs, enhance our performing arts space and kitchen, refurbish the computer lab and library, and add additional PE equipment. Set to launch in August 2006 and culminate in June 2008, the success of the campaign will rely on our long-time community supporters, local businesses and foundations.

If you or someone you know is interested in sustaining high quality, innovative public education, please fill out the enclosed form and mail today or contact City Academy at 801 596-8489 for further information. Every dollar contributed will make a difference in the educational experience of a student. Give today!



*"I believe students learn in different ways, teachers should use a variety of teaching approaches to motivate student learning and that is what I love about this school."*

City Academy Parent  
June, 2006

## Sophomore Leads Division at State Science Fair



*Libby Giles*

Libby Giles, Maddy Hartley and Nirvana Huntington represented City Academy at the 2-day Salt Lake Science and Engineering Fair (SLVSEF) held in late March. Competitors gathered at the University of Utah to display and demonstrate their innovative projects. The SLVSEF is one of four regional fairs held annually in Utah and is organized by the Utah Science Center in partnership with the University of Utah.

All three projects developed by City Academy students stole the show and each student did a wonderful job with their presentation. Each student was invited to a fair the following month at Westminster College to present their work at this year's Utah Biodiesel Forum. It was Libby's investigation into a biodiesel oil spill comparing oil spills between regular diesel and biodiesel, that stole the awards. She received first place in the Environmental Science Senior Division. She was also presented with an elite award for being the most enthusiastic interviewee in the senior division. In addition, Libby won top awards from the Association of Women Geoscientists, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the national Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and the US Air Force. Her prizes included money, certificates, supplies and two trophies. Congratulations Libby!

## CA Service Learning Program Recognized by Governor's Office

In her keynote address at City Academy's April 11th Global Youth Service Days Town Meeting, Christine Kearl, Utah's Deputy of Education, told students "you do Service Learning well". Kearl, a strong advocate of academic service learning inspired City Academy's student body with her presence and her passion for curriculum that is integrated with serving the community. "Walk out of here today knowing that service learning is a vital component of your education", said Kearl. Tad Teeples, State Farm Insurance, Sugarhouse office, attended the event to acknowledge his company's recent \$10,000 grant award to City Academy for its exemplary Service Learning Program.

Every day involves connecting the curriculum with serving the community," says Deanna Taylor, City Academy's Learning Coordinator. "Our students learn about health issues, for example, through raising money for leukemia patients, social studies by performing service for indigenous communities, homelessness by doing clothing drives and working with legislators and environment by doing internships at various community organizations." The academic service learning experiences in which students are engaged are compatible with City Academy's mission of providing a personalized rigorous and authentic education in a diverse, democratic learning environment."



*Christine Kearl  
Utah Deputy of Education*

### **This Year's Service Learning Partners**

The Children's Center ▪ Crossroads Urban Center ▪ HEAL Utah ▪ International Rescue  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance ▪ Spy Hop Productions ▪ Utah AIDS Foundation ▪ Wasatch Community Gardens  
No More Homeless Pets ▪ Lowell Bennion Center ▪ Thayne Center at Salt Lake Community College ▪ Head Start

# Lifetime Learning Lab Completes Its First Year



City Academy's Lifetime Learning Lab (LLL) extended day program was launched in September 2005 with a \$160,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This innovative education and enrichment program for middle and high school-aged students and family/community members represents a unique community partnership with Episcopal Community Services (ECS), Jewish Community Center (JCC) and Highland High School (HHS). Our partners work to assure the long-term sustainability of LLL

by identifying additional funding sources, training staff, referring volunteers/clients and sharing program operation expertise. At the end of its first 9 months, City Academy successfully laid the groundwork to achieve its program goals which include:

- ☑ **Reducing** the number of students who are failing and/or not meeting basic learning standards in core academics
- ☑ **Increasing** student success on standardized high stakes tests
- ☑ **Providing** enrichment programs that enhance students' academic achievement, strengthen families and support children's learning
- ☑ **Providing** a data-driven quality out-of-school program in a safe, enriching, and respectful environment



The Lifetime Learning Lab offers something for every student. If you would like to suggest a class for the fall session, visit the school's site at [www.cityacademyslc.org](http://www.cityacademyslc.org), click on the Lifetime Learning Lab link on the homepage, and fill out the parent questionnaire provided for your use. We'd love to hear from you. Fall Class Offerings will be announced as we approach the 2006-2007 school year.

*The Lifetime Learning Lab  
has been a wonderful resource for my  
student's after school needs.*

Parent of Lab Student  
May, 2006



## **CITY ACADEMY**

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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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*“We are what we repeatedly do:  
excellence, then  
is not an act but a habit.”*

**- Aristotle**

You Have a Voice....You Have a Choice....  
....And It's Your Education  
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