The Charter School Toolkit:  
An Interactive Seminar for Charter School Teachers, CEOs, Principals and Board members in the South of France

To apply and to get more information, please go to our website:  
http://inst.uno.edu/

Program leaders:  

Dr. James Meza, Jr., Dean and Professor of Educational Leadership at the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans. Jim Meza’s background includes state and national experience in policy development and education reform. He has served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the chief policy making body for PK-12 education in Louisiana. He also has served as the Interim State Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana.

During the last 10 years, he has conducted research nationally on comprehensive school reform in urban settings. He worked closely for five years with the Memphis City School System in successfully implementing comprehensive school reform in more than 20 inner city public schools. Dr. Meza spearheaded UNO’s takeover of Pierre A. Capdau, a failing school in Orleans Parish. He redefined the role of universities by assuming responsibility for the academic outcomes of kindergarten through twelfth grades students in public schools. Dr. Meza is the recipient of the Education Innovator of the Year 2005 Award presented by New Orleans City Business. Dr. Meza is currently serving on the Board of Directors of 3 charter management organizations.

Patricia A. Adams practiced Labor and Employment law in New Orleans from 1996 until she assumed the position of in-house counsel at the University of New Orleans in 2005. During her years in private practice, Ms. Adams advised employers and lectured frequently on a variety of Labor and Employment law topics. Ms. Adams’ involvement with charter schools began shortly after Hurricane Katrina when she assisted in drafting the charter for Benjamin Franklin High School, a high-performing secondary school located on the UNO campus. Since that time, Ms. Adams has provided legal advice to Ben Franklin’s governing board and to administrators of the UNO Charter School Initiative, which assists the operation of six New Orleans charter schools. Ms. Adams is a member of the New Beginnings Schools Foundation Board of Directors and stands on-call to assist school administrators with legal issues that arise in the day-to-day operation of the UNO charter school affiliates.

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Metropolitan College  
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http://inst.uno.edu/france
The Charter School Toolkit

Who Should Attend:
Individuals involved in legal aspects of the operation of charter schools, including current or prospective board members, teachers and administrators.

Program Objective:
Through faculty presentations and interactive case studies, participants will gain a broad-based understanding of the legal and organizational structure of charter schools. Participants will also learn strategies from “real world experiences and case law” that assist in creating and operating successful charter schools.

Topics of Discussion:

The program will cover a wide variety of topics related to legal principles, governance and operation of charter schools.

Participants will learn the history of charter schools and discuss key federal legislation and statutory provisions that define charter schools. Following an overview of charter school governance and organization, participants will engage in focused discussions of the legal and operational issues that charter school operators encounter most frequently. For example, who should be on the charter school board and what are the legal and ethical responsibilities of a board member and school leaders? Faculty will also provide guidance in creating effective personnel and student handbooks for charter schools.

Topics to be addressed and discussed:

*duty risk analysis
*special education
*employment law
*legal rights and responsibilities of charter school employees
*families and students

Fieldtrips
An integral part of this program is to offer participants a true taste of the Languedoc region. Possible trip destinations will be the enchanting walled in medieval city of Carcassonne, the Palace of the Popes in Avignon and the Chateau of Flaugergues.

Other optional activities will be available to our participant such as:

*A night at the Comédie Opera
*A fun survival French class
*Wine tasting class and visit of a local wine Chateau

Montpellier
Located in the south of France, just seven miles from Mediterranean beaches, sunny Montpellier combines the excitement of a dynamic and cosmopolitan city with the provincial charm and graceful lifestyle of southern France. Charming shops on cobblestone streets, the Place de la Comédie, top French restaurants…it’s all there waiting for you!

| A view of the French Riviera, our fun filled destination for the weekend Excursion. Nice and Monaco! |

Program Cost: $1,995.00

Included:
Housing (double occupancy)
Single supplement: add $700.00
Breakfast every day
Two group lunches during the stay
Welcome and farewell banquet
Fieldtrips and site visits
Weekend trip to Nice and Monaco including hotel and transportation
Airport pick up to and from Montpellier
Study abroad health insurance

Participants will stay in a 3 star hotel in the heart of the old town in Montpellier. Amenities include air conditioning, Wifi internet access, and 24 bar/snack area.

Not included: Airfare, passport fees, telephone calls, optional excursions, textbooks, or any items of a personal nature.

Space is limited and we cannot guarantee space after the program is full.

A detailed calendar will be sent to participants upon registration.