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El Camino Real Charter High School
Focus on Learning
WASC SelfStudy

April 2017

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Lori Chandler

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Principal's Welcome

On behalf of the El Camino Real Charter High School staff, students, parents, community, and administration, I would like to welcome the WASC Visiting Committee. Many individuals gave a great deal of their time and energy to this major undertaking analyzing data, assessing our strengths and weaknesses, identifying our critical needs, and ultimately developing an action plan that ensures achievement and success of all of our students.

The self-study document is the result of a collaborative effort of the El Camino Real community. The WASC self-study process has given us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and reassess our strategies for addressing our areas of growth. We strive to develop compassionate global citizens and cultivate their unique talents and skills through innovative teaching methods. We want to empower our students to become compassionate global citizens and pursue their post-secondary goals.

I would like to thank everyone for their dedication to the students, staff, school, and community.

Sincerely,

David Hussey
Executive Director

Preface- A Description of the Process

The El Camino Real Charter High School self study was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in the Focus on Learning Joint ACS WASC/CDE Process Guide 2016 Edition. The process gave the school an opportunity to collaborate, analyze, assess, and revise our instructional goals so that we can continue to offer our students a high quality educational environment.

The self study leadership team was selected in the fall semester of 2015. We then formed focus groups and started working on revising Student Learning Outcomes. The leadership team worked diligently with these groups to maintain a smooth flow of information, complete tasks, meet deadlines, analyze and gather student and school data, and establish goals to improve the achievement of all students. Focus groups are composed of administrators, certificated staff members, classified staff members, students and community members. In addition, extra meetings were held with clerical classified staff, students, and parents. A concerted effort was made to ensure that the final report reflects the work of all these groups.

Several changes have taken place since the last WASC visit (Spring 2011), chief among these is the fact that we are now an independent charter school (Fall 2011). The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is our charter authorizer and we receive annual evaluation visits from the LAUSD Charter Schools Division. Becoming a charter school has enabled us to break free from school site priorities. In 2012 we took over the control of Miguel Leonis Continuation School, a continuation program. At the time of our charter conversion, the LAUSD school board encouraged us to convert due to their fiscal constraints. At the time, we maintained a good working relationship with the Superintendent and the Board. Some of the larger political issues related to the charter school movement have since affected the relationship between the school and our charter authorizer. One of the consequences of the strain in this relationship led to us entering a Memorandum of Understanding with the district. As of this writing, we have met nearly all of the conditions set forth in this MOU.

Our new Executive Director is the former Lead Assistant Principal (and teacher, counselor, and Assistant Principal) at El Camino and has been with the school for 26 years. He was a key figure in establishing the academic goals of the school in his former capacity and he has been continuing that work as Executive Director. Although we have had some changes in administration, the assistant principals have an average of 12 years at the school in varying

We are confident that the school has the capacity to monitor and reach the goals set forth in the Action Plan and in our LCAP. We hope you enjoy learning about our school. This document is the result of countless hours of sincere, diligent effort on the part of our stakeholders. El Camino Real Charter High School is dedicated to its students and offers a rigorous standards-based curriculum that enables them to achieve academic success in a clean, safe, and supportive learning environment.

