

For Immediate Release  
June 28, 2010

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## Goenner to be Inducted into National Charter Schools Hall of Fame

Jim Goenner, executive director of [The Center for Charter Schools](#) at Central Michigan University (CMU) will be inducted into the National Charter Schools Hall of Fame this week as part of the [National Alliance for Public Charter Schools](#)' annual conference in Chicago.

"I am humbled, honored and excited to receive this recognition and the national stage it provides to showcase CMU and Michigan's charter schools movement," said Goenner.

Goenner was selected for induction into the Hall of Fame for his pioneering work in developing charter schools in Michigan and for his leadership in founding numerous state and national organizations that support charter schools and ensure their accountability. For example, he helped found the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, along with the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, both of which he currently chairs the board of directors. Goenner also presents on charter schools across the country and has provided expert testimony on charter school authorizing before the U.S. Congress.

"This recognition would not be possible without the resolute courage exhibited in 1994 by the CMU Board of Trustees and the late Dr. Leonard Plachta, who was president of the university at that time. They saw charter schools as a natural extension of the university's heritage of preparing teachers and as an opportunity to provide quality educational options for Michigan's children – especially those in greatest need. I also want to thank my teammates at The Center for Charter Schools, all those who work tirelessly for students in the schools we charter and my fellow 'reformers' around the state and country who have inspired, mentored and supported me," added Goenner.

Under Goenner's leadership, CMU became known as the "gold standard" for its oversight and accountability practices. CMU is the largest university authorizer of charter public schools in the nation. During the 2009-10 school year, CMU authorized 58 schools, which served more than 30,000 students, two-thirds of which would be traditionally labeled as at-risk. Goenner's team at The Center for Charter Schools is also known for its research and development of leading edge tools, like [AOIS](#) and [Board Gear](#), designed to enhance student performance and school effectiveness.

"I will proudly accept this recognition on behalf of our entire team and all those who work so hard to put students first," Goenner concluded. "It is their work that is truly being recognized."

In addition to hearing from Goenner, the 4,000 plus conference attendees will hear keynote addresses from Bill Gates of Microsoft fame; Reed Hastings, founder of NetFlix and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

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Click here to [watch](#) the video produced by the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools recognizing Jim Goenner.

*The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ([www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org)) is the national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance works to increase the number of high performing charter schools available to all families, particularly low-income and minority families who currently do not have access to quality public schools. The Alliance provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement.*