



CSDC AWARDS FIRST-EVER “TOM NIDA CHARTER SCHOOL INNOVATION AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS”

The Charter Schools Development Corporation (CSDC) today announced the awarding of the first ever Tom Nida Charter School Innovation and Academic Excellence Award to three outstanding charter schools from across the country. The Tom Nida Award was created to honor Tom Nida, a nationally recognized expert and innovator in public charter school financing who served nearly two decades as Chair of CSDC’s Board of Directors before retiring from that position earlier this year. This competitive award recognizes and supports charter schools participating in one of CSDC’s facilities programs and displaying outstanding achievement in the areas of financial performance, academics and leadership and governance. The three inaugural recipient schools will each receive a \$5,000 award to support operations in any one of these categories.

“The Tom Nida Award is a way to acknowledge and reward the highest performing public charter schools in CSDC’s portfolio and incentivize other schools to strive to achieve the same high level of success,” said CSDC’s CEO Al Dubin. “These three schools each have excelled this past year not only in academic achievement and fiscal responsibility, but they have modeled the highest standard of governance and oversight that we expect from our schools.”

Tom Nida displayed a steadfast devotion to the mission of CSDC and belief that charter schools are the prime vehicle for expanding innovation, accountability, choice and opportunity in public education. Nida also served as Chair of the DC Public Charter School Board and guided other nonprofit educational organization’s efforts to improve financial and academic accountability of charter public schools in DC and beyond. “Nida has had a banking career of over fifty years, helping an extraordinary number of charter schools receive financing to acquire, renovate, build or expand their facilities, and honoring his accomplishments with this award is a fitting tribute to his career long commitment to the banking, nonprofit and community development finance sectors,” said Michelle Proseri, CSDC’s Chief Operating Officer.

The three inaugural charter school winners are Ethos Classical Academy in Atlanta, GA (<https://ethosclassical.org/>), Futuro Academy Public Charter School in Las Vegas, NV (<http://futuroacademylv.org/>) and Bloom Academy Charter School in Houston, TX (<https://www.bloomacademy.org/>).

CSDC supports quality public school choice for underserved students by developing and financing affordable charter school facilities nationally. Any individual or organization interested in donating to the Tom Nida Charter School Innovation and Academic Excellence Award can do so by visiting the CSDC’s website at www.csdc.org.