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# *Achieve Charter Academy*

**3250 Denton Road, South ♦ Canton, MI ♦ 48187**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Tara Powers, Joe DiBenedetto  
(616) 233-0500  
[jdibenedetto@lambert-edwards.com](mailto:jdibenedetto@lambert-edwards.com)

## **New Charter School Coming To Canton**

**Canton, Mich., February 26, 2009** – To meet the growing demand of parents in the Canton-area, a new charter school will open its doors in September. The board of Achieve Charter Academy today announced its plans to open its doors to students in grades K-6 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Construction at Achieve Charter Academy's new facility, located at 3250 Denton Road, South in Canton, is slated to begin March 2, with a target completion date of July 15. The 45,000-square-foot-energy efficient building will feature individual art and music classrooms, a comprehensive media center, gymnasium and designated parent area. The surrounding campus will feature a large outdoor recreation area, adjoining playground, a paved play area, spacious parking lot and attractive landscaping.

Achieve Charter Academy will initially have capacity for 534 K-6 students and will add one grade per year through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, eventually serving more than 700 students.

"I speak for the entire board when I say we're eager to offer parents in the Canton community another high-quality educational option," said Thomas Sklut, board president. "Our goal with Achieve Charter Academy is to create a safe, secure learning environment that fosters student achievement, that parents can have confidence in and that the community can be proud of."

The board has selected educational services provider National Heritage Academies (NHA) to manage the daily operations of the school. This includes recruiting, managing and developing staff and teachers, providing curriculum and managing the facility. NHA currently partners with boards at 57 other schools in six states serving more than 36,000 students.

"We have been extremely impressed with the success the other NHA-managed school in our area, Canton Charter Academy, has achieved over the past decade," said Sklut. "With the school's success has come strong demand in the community for another school of its caliber in the area. NHA's cornerstones of academic excellence, strong moral focus, commitment to parental partnership and individual student responsibility is attractive to parents, serves students well and aligns with our vision for the school. We're confident this will be a positive long-term partnership."

A resident of Farmington Hills, Mr. Sklut is an experienced educator having worked with students from pre-school to college. Today, along with his role as an adjunct professor in the music department at Madonna University, Mr. Sklut serves as interim executive director at

Student Mentor Partners, a premier social service agency providing academically underachieving students with mentors and financial aid assistance to attend faith-based high schools. Joining Mr. Sklut on the board is: Bradley Defoe, Judy Draplin, Adelaide Jackson and Laura Packer.

As a public, tuition-free charter school, Achieve Charter Academy is open to all students. The school will be accepting applications during an open enrollment period through February 27. Due to overwhelming response — with more than 900 applications already submitted — a random selection public lottery will be held on March 24.

National Heritage Academies has scheduled an informational meeting for parents interested in learning more about the new school. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., on March 10, at Canton Charter Academy, located at 49100 Ford Road in Canton. Student enrollment applications for kindergarten through sixth grade can be obtained by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL, in person at the parent meeting, or online at [www.nhaschools.com](http://www.nhaschools.com).

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