Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the Loudoun County School Board:

On behalf of the members of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), we are writing to formally express our support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. We believe the proposed program is an important initiative to strengthen the already high-quality education provided through Loudoun County Public Schools.

As you know, NVTC is the largest technology council in the nation with approximately 1,000 member companies representing about 220,000 employees from all sectors of the technology industry. The growth potential for Virginia’s technology industry is limited by an insufficient number of qualified technology workers, and the education system is not graduating a sufficient number of people with degrees in STEM-related (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. The key to the strength of Virginia’s economy is to support educational programs and initiatives that equip our youth with the skills necessary to work in the ever-growing, high-tech economy.

NVTC has recently reviewed the innovative approach in STEM education presented by the Loudoun Math & IT Academy and believes its program will allow more students to participate in STEM learning practices. Such an expansion in capacity, without any additional capital funding requirements, would greatly enhance Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS). We recognize LCPS for its successful initiatives recently launched in this area, and strongly believe a free-standing charter school—one that is focused on STEM education and open to all interested Loudoun students grades 6-12—will expand those efforts.

NVTC has been impressed with the strong leadership of the Board of LCPS. This successful charter school model will continue that leadership legacy and take LCPS’s STEM offerings to the next level. Therefore, we urge you to approve the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s charter school application.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Kilberg
President & CEO

Brad Ante
Chairman

CC: School Board Members

October 12, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

2214 Rock Hill Road Suite 300 Herndon, Virginia 20170 (703) 904 7878 fax: (703) 904 8008

25x
August 15, 2011

Loudoun County School Board  
21000 Education Court  
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express the strong support of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of the Academy and am very impressed with their commitment to innovation and excellence.

Our Chamber has made the workforce of tomorrow one of our key concentrations. We believe that STEM education is imperative to our nation’s continued leadership in a global world and we encourage every initiative that can further enhance our students’ capabilities in the STEM subjects. The Loudoun Math and IT Academy would be a model that could not only accomplish this but would stand as a model for other schools to emulate.

While we have not reviewed the Academy’s application, we support the concept of their school wholeheartedly, and hope that you will work with the founders to achieve a favorable outcome for all.

Sincerely,

Eileen D. Curtis  
President, DRCC
August 12, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Members of the Loudoun County School Board:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, I submit this letter concerning the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County.

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce has long advocated for the resources and policies that will support excellence in the County’s K-12 education systems, both public and private. A high performing education system will ensure our students are equipped with the skills, training and knowledge necessary to become productive lifelong members of our nation’s workforce, which is vital to the future prosperity and quality of life in our community and in our nation.

To support our policy priorities, the Chamber endorses a number of different initiatives. These include support for innovative approaches to supplement traditional education programs, such as through public charter schools and magnet schools in Loudoun County.

Also, the Loudoun County Chamber recognizes the importance of improving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, to ensure today’s students are well prepared to enter tomorrow’s workforce with the skills to compete in a global economy. During the previous legislative session of the Virginia General Assembly, the Loudoun Chamber was a staunch advocate for Governor McDonnell’s plans to increase STEM-related college degrees by 100,000 over the next several years.

Recently, I met with leaders of Loudoun Math & IT Academy and was impressed with their ideas for a STEM-focused Charter School to Loudoun County. Their idea for the Loudoun Math & IT Academy is to provide middle and high school students a focused education in the STEM subjects, improving their skills in the areas that are most important to our nation’s economic and technological future.

Based on our positions and what we see as leaders of the Loudoun business community, we believe our community would benefit significantly from a math and IT-focused charter school. While the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce does not endorse applications or proposals made by private groups to government entities, I do believe the stated aims of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s organizers is consistent with the policies and objectives endorsed by the Chamber’s Board of Directors.

I look forward to seeing the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s charter application receive thorough consideration and I am available to offer any additional information on Chamber’s position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tony Howard
President & CEO

cc: Superintendent Dr. Ed Hattrick
September 1, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board,

I am writing to formally express my support for the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application to establish a STEM charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders and appreciate their enthusiasm towards providing a valuable asset to Loudoun County. I am impressed with their application that establishes a math and science centered education in our community.

The Loudoun Math & IT Academy will offer a full education experience to our students who excel in and love the technology, math and science fields. While Loudoun County has STEM programs in place, this application would create additional high-impact, hands-on learning experiences for students while they pursue their interest in these specific programs. I know the importance of education and believe we should make available and encourage the students of Loudoun County to pursue their interests at an early age.

I hope that as a School Board you will see the great opportunity the founders wish to provide Loudoun County. Please give every consideration to the Loudoun Math & IT Academy during the application process.

Sincerely,

Scott K. York
Chairman,
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
September 27, 2011

Dr. Edgar Hatrick, Superintendent
Loudoun County Public Schools
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the Loudoun County School Board:

I would like to encourage you to give careful consideration to the application for the proposed math and technology charter school.

As you know, an excellent mathematics and technological education is essential to maintaining our competitiveness in the marketplace. Loudoun County Public Schools do an outstanding job in that arena, but the proposed Math and IT Academy charter school could complement the county's offerings and provide a focused education for students looking for a different environment. We need to consider all of the alternatives.

Although I have not had the opportunity to review the Academy's application to create a charter school, I strongly support the concept and support thoughtful consideration of the application itself. The concept is an excellent fit to meet the needs of Loudoun students.

Please let me know if you need more detail or additional thoughts.

All the best,

Susan Klimek Buckley
Vice Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Sugarland Run District
August 3, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and School Board Members,

As the Supervisor for the fastest-growing, most populous district in Loudoun County, I am acutely aware of the need for our local government to consider every reasonable option for accommodating our explosive public school population increase. Loudoun Math & IT Academy charter school represents a potentially valuable component of the overall structure and offerings of Loudoun County Public Schools.

I would strongly support giving Loudoun Math & IT Academy full consideration of their potential to be a cost-effective alternative to our existing capital and operating models.

Sincerely,
August 10, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hattrick and Members of the School Board:

I write to express my support for giving the application of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy to establish a charter school in Loudoun County full consideration. I have met personally with the members of the founding group and I share their vision of preparing our children to compete and win in the global job market of the future. The Academy could be an exciting opportunity to establish a science and technology-focused school that will be a valuable asset to our community.

Science and technology industry is a key driver of our local and regional economy. The number of businesses in the IT field has grown by 220% and its employment more than doubled over the past eight years. The Loudoun Math & IT Academy is planning to provide students with a unique opportunity to pursue their interests in science and math. The school also plans to provide an individualized focus on college preparation so that its students can pursue both advanced degrees in IT-related fields and seek career and internship opportunities with local high-tech companies and research institutions.

The founders have sought the advice and support of community groups and leaders to help them get this project started successfully. Additionally, they have demonstrated a willingness to work with Loudoun County Public Schools and establish a cooperative working relationship. I support the educational program proposed by the Loudoun Math & IT Academy and urge you to give the application full consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Herring
August 15, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hattrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing to ask for your favorable consideration of the Loudoun Math and IT Academy’s application to establish a STEM charter school in Loudoun County.

I have recently met with the founders and was impressed with the quality of their program and their commitment to education in Loudoun County.

Loudoun continues to offer one of the top educational programs in the nation and I believe that this application is consistent with the County’s progressive approach to education. Likewise, the additional emphasis on science, math and technology based curriculum will be a great asset to our middle and high school students. In an increasingly competitive environment, this will provide a great advantage to young people in our region.

I appreciate your attention and ask that you give their application every consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill H. Vogel
December 16, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hattrick and Members of the Loudoun County School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express my support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s (LMITA) application for a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of the LMITA and, as Chairman and CEO of Telos Corporation, I fully endorse their stated goals, which include providing education specifically in the area of cybersecurity as part of their program, in addition to standard curriculum and strong STEM content throughout all the core subject areas.

Telos Corporation is proud to provide cybersecurity solutions to the government and businesses. I support this effort because the LMITA will be developing the workforce Telos and many other IT companies in the region and across the U.S. desperately need, right here in Loudoun County. We look forward to the opportunity to hire local talent to fill the highly sensitive, skilled positions needed within Telos Corporation, among the students who successfully complete the program at the LMITA.

Even beyond my company’s needs, statistics show that looking to the future, almost 49% of new jobs will be in the STEM fields. Strong focus in this area, earlier in the education process, is critical to meeting these needs. In the IT industry, every day it is getting more difficult to find U.S. citizens to fill positions requiring a strong math and IT background. In a greater sense, as a nation, we are falling behind in the production of graduates with skills in the STEM fields.

Several public and private initiatives are in place nationally and locally to address this issue. Any initiative that proves to be a part of the solution should be welcomed. As you may be aware, at Telos, we have a formal partnership with C.S. Monroe Technology Center and we have supported the Wolf Trap Institute in developing an early learning program, in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools, designed to teach science and math through the arts. We also support efforts to increase STEM education for all Loudoun County Public Schools through the newly developing Jason Project. These highly important programs, however, do not negate the need for the type of focus the LMITA will provide, as yet another choice, to students in Loudoun County. We, as business and community leaders, need to be supporting a wide range of choices to help prepare our next generation workforce to be successful.

Keeping with Telos’ commitment to education, I am fully supporting LMITA in their efforts to establish a charter school in Loudoun County and I hope that you will provide all the assistance you can to these dedicated parents and entrepreneurs with their initiative for the good of Loudoun’s youth, as well as our business community and community at large.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
August 18, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with one of the founders of the Academy and I found his track record of success as well as his concept for Loudoun to be compelling.

Fortessa proudly supports LCPS because we know the importance of human capital to our future business, our broader community, and our nation as a whole. We have shown this commitment as a founding participant in the George Washington University Teachers in Industry Program. We have contributed product for use at the Monroe Academy, as well as participated in Monroe’s foreign exchange student program. We also regularly support events such as science fairs and the Loudoun Youth leadership development program. I point these things out by way of illustrating Fortessa’s commitment to and respect for LCPS.

In my view, LCPS should continue its record of leadership and innovation. I believe the Academy has the potential to be another instance of such innovation. I also believe that the success of Charter schools in other communities makes a strong case for the desirability of establishing such a school in Loudoun.

I urge you to give the Academy and its application your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Hamberger
CEO, Co-President
Fortessa, Inc.
September 12, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express my support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application to establish a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy and was impressed by their vision and commitment to make the Academy a success. I believe that the Academy would provide an important choice for Loudoun’s students.

As a middle and high school focusing on mathematics and information technologies, the Academy will provide our students an opportunity to obtain a thorough and challenging education in STEM fields. As such it has the potential to contribute to both Loudoun’s economic development and quality of life.

The founders have sought advice and support from community groups and leaders to help them successfully launch the Academy. Moreover, they have demonstrated a willingness to work with the Loudoun County Public Schools to develop and maintain a cooperative relationship.

While I have not had an opportunity to review the application to establish the Academic as a charter school, I support the concept of this school. I urge you to give the application every consideration toward the end of creating an important new educational opportunity for Loudoun’s students.

Sincerely,

Craig W. Linebaugh

Craig W. Linebaugh, Ph.D.
Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing in support for the creation of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of the proposed school and I'm convinced that what they are proposing will be a valuable asset to our community and the Commonwealth.

As you know I, as well as a number of my colleagues, have made STEM education a priority item among our legislative objectives. I have participated directly in a number of STEM educational activities and believe that the Loudoun Math and IT Academy will be a major contributor to addressing our burgeoning STEM education needs.

It is my hope that the Loudoun Math and IT Academy will be given every consideration in the application process. Please feel free to call me you have would like to discuss the matter.

Very truly yours,

Joe T. May
April 13, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express my support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of Loudoun Math & IT Academy and impressed with their determination and commitment. I am confident this will be a successful school providing an invaluable choice for the Loudoun’s youth.

As a middle and high school focusing on mathematics and information technologies in the area, it will give our students the opportunity to obtain a thorough and challenging education in STEM fields that are so important to our economic and technological future. This thrust in STEM is in complete accord with the intent of the Governor and General Assembly to increase graduates in these important fields, as we are falling behind in the production of graduates with skills in the STEM fields.

The founders sought the advice and support of community groups and leaders to help them get the school started successfully. Moreover, they have demonstrated enthusiasm and great willingness to work with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) to establish a cooperative working relationship.

I support their application and urge you to look favorably on Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s charter application.

Sincerely,

Thomas Davis Rust
March 28, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express my strong support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of Loudoun Math & IT Academy and was very impressed with their determination and commitment. I am fully confident that this will be a successful school providing an invaluable choice for Loudoun’s youth.

As a middle and high school focusing on mathematics and information technologies in the area, it will give our students the opportunity to obtain a thorough and challenging education in STEM fields that are so important to our economic and technological future.

The founders sought the advice and support of community groups and leaders to help them get the school started successfully. Moreover, they have demonstrated enthusiasm and great willingness to work with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) to establish a cooperative working relationship.

And while I have not reviewed their application, I support the concept of their school wholeheartedly, and strongly urge you to work with the founders to achieve a favorable outcome for all the parties!

Sincerely,

Thomas A. “Tag” Greason
April 27, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hattrick and Members of the School Board:

I write to share my support for the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application to establish a STEM charter school in Loudoun County. The founding members have given considerable attention to creating a valuable educational opportunity for Loudoun County students. I am impressed with their application and appreciate their dedication to establish a math and science-focused school in our community.

Loudoun Math & IT will provide students an opportunity to pursue interests in science and math more specifically than a traditional classroom setting can provide. This charter school will continue to set Northern Virginia apart and will allow our children to receive the most advanced and hands-on education possible. As someone who received college degrees in math and science, I am aware of how important it is for young people to be encouraged in their interests at an early age.

The founders have demonstrated enthusiasm, vision, and great willingness to work with Loudoun County Public Schools to create additional STEM education opportunities. I hope you will give their application every consideration.

Sincerely,

James M. LeMunyon
Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express my support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. This is an innovative education opportunity that will provide another valuable choice for Loudoun’s youth.

This year in the General Assembly we passed the Higher Education Act of 2011 which placed a greater emphasis on high demand science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects and encouraged the formation of a public-private partnership that will engage the business and professional community in leveraging best practices for K-12 and higher education. This school would help meet the goal of the bill with its focus on mathematics and information technologies. The school will provide our students with the opportunity to obtain a thorough and challenging education in STEM.

The founders sought the advice and support of community groups and leaders to help them get the school started successfully. Moreover, they have demonstrated enthusiasm and great willingness to work with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) to establish a cooperative working relationship.

This school will provide another resource for students committed to a strong science and tech curriculum. We know so many of the jobs of the future need this type of strong curriculum. I urge you to look favorably on Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s charter application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Comstock
June 3, 2011

Dr. Ali Bicak  
Loudoun Math & IT Academy  
PO Box 651206  
Potomac Falls, VA 20165

Dear Dr. Bicak:

Congratulations on the fine progress you have made developing plans for Loudoun Math & IT Academy. I strongly believe that establishing such a public charter school in Loudoun County would represent a welcome and valuable option for families, and would reflect very favorably on education in Northern Virginia generally.

The impressive record of success Chesapeake Science Point PCS has established as Maryland’s highest-achieving charter school attests to the credentials and credibility of your founding group, and represents a model well worth replicating. The focus you have proposed here, emphasizing the increasing role of computers and technology while offering a rigorous foundational education, with a broader curriculum aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning, would serve Loudoun public education well. Further, the advanced placement opportunities you will offer would likely attract diverse families from across the community.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavor. Please let me know how I might be of assistance moving forward.

Best regards,

Don Soifer  
Executive Vice President
August 8, 2011

Loudoun County School Board
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Dr. Hatrick and Members of the School Board:

I am writing this letter to formally express my strong support of the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s application for a charter school in Loudoun County. I have met with the founders of the Academy and am very impressed with their commitment to innovation and excellence.

Having spent the last six years developing and teaching STEM programs to more than 80,000 young kids in the Northern Virginia area, I know first-hand that Loudoun is full of kids who would flourish given the opportunity to enroll in a full-time STEM academy. While our county offers wonderful STEM programming already, this would be a tremendous addition and allow many more kids to pursue their interest in STEM fields.

I have not reviewed the Academy’s application, but I support the concept of their school wholeheartedly, and hope that you will work with the founders to achieve a favorable outcome for all.

Sincerely,

Mary Porter Green
Founder & President
Curiosity Zone
August 18, 2011

Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick III
Loudoun County Schools
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Re: Loudoun Math & IT Academy
Arcola Center

Dear Dr. Hatrick:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to you to advise you not only of Buchanan Partners’ support for the Loudoun Math & IT Academy’s (LMITA) application for a charter school in Loudoun County, but also of our intent to work with the LMITA to design a facility and agree to business terms in the hope that they will make their charter school facility a part of our Arcola Center mixed-use project in the Dulles South area of Loudoun County.

To date we have had multiple meetings with the representatives of LMITA, and they feel that the Arcola Center project’s scope, location and timing fit very well with the requirements and preferences that they have identified for their Loudoun County facility, including the following:

- Timing of initial school opening
- Freestanding building preference
- Initial 30,000 SF requirement with expansion capability to 70,000 SF
- Location in a safe and growing community with good schools
- Central location between existing Brambleton, Stone Ridge and South Riding communities
- Mixed-use environment near established transportation corridors
- Established and reputable developer/owner

For our part, we have been impressed with the LMITA representatives, their experience and success in creating other schools, and their knowledge of both their business of education and their real estate business. With respect to the project, we have just broken ground on our initial infrastructure and the initial residential phases. Subsequent retail and commercial phases are currently under design and approval. We do have site plan approval and will obtain initial commercial building permits for 150,000
SF in the first quarter of 2012, which will allow us to respond quickly to market requirements for space. This approved site plan could include the free standing facilities for LMITA.

Attached please find an overall illustrative plan for Arcola Center that identifies the different components of the project. Infrastructure work is underway in the Residences at Main Street section, and initial commercial and retail phases will be in the Shops and Business Park areas, and we would hope to include the LMITA facility in the Business Park. For your reference, as indicated on the plan, your future 2 story LCPS elementary school will be located in the future Village area of the project.

Please feel free to call or email with any questions or if you need any other information in order to process the LMITA applications. I can be reached at 301-674-5870 or r.gestl@buchananpartners.com.

Sincerely,

Buchanan Partners LLC

Russell S. Gestl
Executive Vice President

Cc: Ali Bicak, Loudoun Math and IT Academy
Loudoun Math & IT Academy

**A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL WITH AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOCUSING ON MATH AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

The focus on Math & IT is to reflect the increasing role of computers and technology in today's world and, more importantly, to provide a unique opportunity for Loudoun County youth to pursue professional careers as well as college education in the high paying and ever growing field of information technologies.

**NEED FOR A CHARTER SCHOOL** Loudoun has been one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation since the late 1990s. The rapid growth has come with unique challenges. Loudoun leaders are continuously questioned about where the money to build new schools or expand capacity will come from. Charter schools are one way to relieve this burden on the budget. Despite the recession, Loudoun County's Information Technology (IT) sector is growing and one in every six Loudoun residents works in an IT related field. A charter school focusing in math and IT will provide a choice for students who want to focus on these fields starting from the middle school.

**OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** Our goal is to replicate the Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School (CSP), a highly successful math, science and technology charter school, in Loudoun County while adapting the CSP concept to better fit the needs of the county students with more emphasis on IT. The focus on math & IT is to reflect the increasing role of computers and technology in today's world and, more importantly, to provide a unique opportunity for the county youth to pursue professional careers as well as college education in the high paying and ever growing IT sector.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM** The curricula for all subject areas are rigorous and aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning & Common Core Standards. In addition to the core areas, there will be an emphasis on hands-on education in Information Technologies targeting advanced IT certifications. Loudoun Math & IT Academy will also have a focus on college preparation with individualized SAT tutoring, customized practice testing opportunities and advanced placement courses.

**FOUNDING GROUP** Loudoun Math & IT Academy founding team is a local group bringing extensive management, teaching, and charter school operation experience to this endeavor. The founders consist of five individuals with highly successful careers in education, information technologies and college teaching.

Loudoun Math & IT Academy will be a public charter school that will serve grades 6 through 12 with an academic program focusing on Mathematics and Information Technologies giving Loudoun County parents and students a choice in education.