



## GCSA Weekly Update

**Dear Jeniffer,**

We are just a few days away from the 6th annual conference. Are you registered yet?

### **GCSA - NEWS & EVENTS**

#### **Statewide Charter Schools Conference is a week and a half away!**

We are only 10 days away from the 6th annual Georgia Charter Schools Conference. Hosted by the Georgia Charter Schools Association, the conference will take place January 24-26, 2008 at the Marietta Conference Center and Resort in Marietta, GA.

The conference is an important opportunity for existing charter school staff as well as petitioners, authorizers, system charters and career academies to obtain valuable information and resources regardless of where you are in the charter school process. The conference also provides that once-a-year chance to meet, network or re-connect with colleagues in person!

#### **PRE-REGISTRATION AT LOWER, ADVANCED REGISTRATION RATES AVAILABLE UNTIL THIS FRIDAY JANUARY 18th**

##### **After January 18th, You Can Register Onsite**

Please check out the conference web site at [HYPERLINK](#)

<http://www.georgiacharterconference.org/>

Save time and money - Register before January 18 for the lowest, advanced registration rates.

**Register online this year or you can call our Conference Registration Services team at 1-800-280-6218.**

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Email [Conference2008@gacharters.org](mailto:Conference2008@gacharters.org) or call Conference Registration Services at **1-800-280-6218**.

### **CHARTER NEWS**

#### **[Gwinnett's all-girls charter school wins approval](#)**

**Ivy Preparatory Academy to open this summer**

01/10/08

Gwinnett County's first free, single-gender school will open this summer after winning crucial state support. Georgia Board of Education members unanimously approved Ivy Preparatory Academy, a planned girls-only public charter school. Final approval for the taxpayer-funded, tuition-free campus came seven months after Gwinnett's education board members voted against the proposal. "We're absolutely thrilled to be chartered," said Nina Gilbert, executive director and head of school. "It's been a process ... [but] we wanted to provide a high-caliber, rigorous college-preparatory opportunity to students who could probably benefit the most." Last summer, Gwinnett officials denied Ivy Prep's charter petition because of concerns the single-gender design would be discriminatory. Despite the state approval Thursday, Gwinnett spokeswoman Sloan Roach said the school system's concerns remained. "We look forward to some wonderful things from your school," state board member Linda Zechmann told Ivy Prep's founders after the vote. (*use link to read entire article*)

## 2008 American Stars of Teaching Nominations Open

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is accepting nominations for 2008 American Stars of Teaching until March 31. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching.

They are seeking nominations of teachers across the United States who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored as 2008 American Stars of Teaching this fall. To nominate a teacher, go to: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>.

The Charter Schools Program encourages charter school parents, students, administrators and colleagues to nominate exemplary charter school teachers who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching.

The U.S. Department of Education received more than 4,000 nominations for the 2007 school year. You can read archived news stories about some of our 2007 American Stars at <https://www.t2tweb.us/Updates/Archives.asp>.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### [Website for nonprofits](#)

TechSoup.org is a technology website for nonprofits. Created by CompuMentor in 2000, TechSoup has become a trusted resource about technology in the nonprofit community. TechSoup.org is a comprehensive website features six main areas:

- Technology-focused How-To Articles
- A Complete Services Directory
- Online Community Discussions
- Technology and Nonprofit News and Views
- Donated and Discounted Products at [TechSoup Stock](#)
- Free Downloads, Recycled Hardware Providers and other product resources

## HIGHLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL!

GCSA wants to highlight your school on the "new and improved" GCSA website, which will be launched very soon! GCSA would like you to forward a photo of your school building or a school sign with a short sentence which can be used as a descriptive caption. Please forward all photos to Andrew Lewis at [alewis@gacharters.org](mailto:alewis@gacharters.org).

Jeniffer Collins  
Georgia Charter Schools Association

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