



*The mission of Carmen Schools of Science and Technology is to graduate all students as critical thinkers and self-directed learners prepared for success in college, meaningful careers, community involvement and family life.*

March 28, 2019

Dear Friends of Carmen Schools of Science and Technology:

I am writing to let you know that after the end of the school year I will be transitioning out of my role as CEO/Head of Schools. After founding and leading Carmen for nearly 12 years, I share this news with both a heavy heart and excitement for the future. Some of you who have been engaged with Carmen for a while have heard me talk about my pending “retirement” for many years. It is only now, though, after witnessing the development of such strong leaders at every level of our organization, that I feel fully confident a new Carmen CEO is set up for success. A national search is already underway to find a successor who will build on the achievements we’ve accomplished together and lead all our Carmen schools to even greater heights.

Many things have changed for me and for our city since 2007 when we created our original plan: to establish one great public charter school – open to all students – that would develop critical thinkers and self-directed learners prepared for success in college, meaningful careers, community involvement, and family life. Since then we have grown a Carmen network of five schools serving 1,700 students today and building to grow to 2,200 over the next few years.

What has never changed is my passion for wanting to see our mission and vision come to life for all children in Milwaukee. That is why I now truly believe my particular leadership skills are best used to try to influence some of the broader changes needed in Milwaukee’s education landscape. My future work will be to ensure the long-term sustainability of Carmen and other Milwaukee schools that provide free, quality education options open to all children.

I’m so incredibly proud of what we have achieved together over the last 12 years. The accomplishment I’m most proud of is that 100% of our Carmen graduates are accepted to 4-year colleges annually and they continue to enroll in and remain in college at the highest rates in the city. This only happens because of the faithful support of community partners like you, and because our staff members show up every day to build the deep and trusting relationships necessary to ensure the success of our students.

Carmen has never been one person or one founder. Over the years new founders have emerged in our Carmen family, making us a strong and vibrant community of three high schools and two middle schools. With the recent addition of our new elementary school partner, Stellar Collegiate, to the Carmen network of charter schools, we will soon offer a K-12 pathway of high-performing school options for thousands of families across Milwaukee. I cannot be more proud of the work we have accomplished together or be more excited for the direction Carmen is heading.

I am deeply grateful for your continued investment in, and advocacy for, our work on behalf of Milwaukee’s children and youth!

Dr. Patricia J. Hoben  
CEO/Head of Schools  
Carmen Schools of Science and Technology