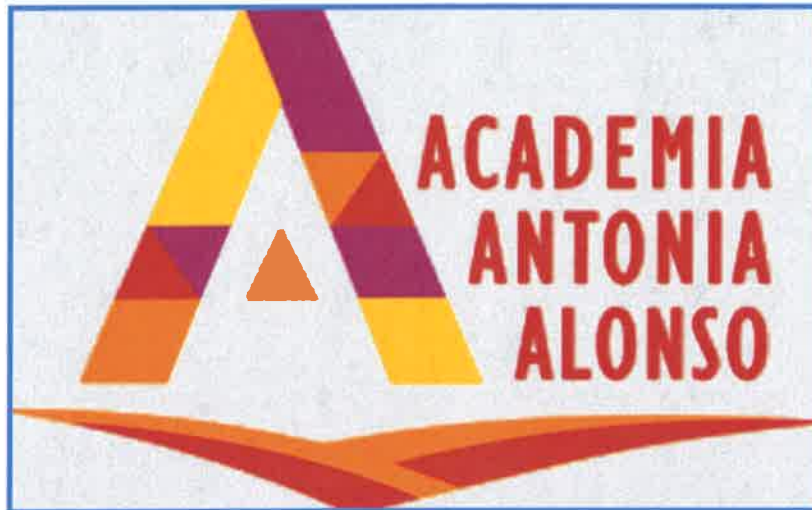


# 2016 – 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **I. Charter School Program**

### **Narrative:**

One of the main academic and educational goals of Academia Antonia Alonso is to provide a premier dual language education experience to its students utilizing Project Based Learning principles. Both the dual language curriculum and the Project Based learning framework will provide the foundation and tools necessary for students to become, "joyful, confident, creative, bilingual learners, with a strong biliterate and bicultural academic foundation," as established in our vision statement.

Based on our educational framework, we have sought to establish and foment a culture in our academic community where our students are motivated to have ownership of their learning. As an example, during our Celebration of Learning Evening, or "Noche de Celebración del Aprendizaje," students exhibit their high quality academic work for parents and members of La Academia's community. At La Academia, we continue to develop the cultural awareness of our student population by continually integrating aspects of the Hispanic culture in the planning of activities and in the creation of lessons in the classroom. Additionally, our students are always

working on their character development that are reinforced by the pillars of UNIDOS, which we work on every day of the week:

(U-Unity / N – Never give up / I – Integrity / D – Discovery / O – Ownership / S – Self Discipline).

La Academia continued to focus on, and develop ideas to improve the implementation of its dual language program in 2016-17. During the year we conducted a pilot program in first to third grade using a dual language curriculum, Maravillas and Wonders. The academic results and the teacher feedback were very positive. This dual language curriculum is now being fully implemented for the 2017-18 school year. It is an instructional tool that equips our teachers to improve their practices in the classroom.

## **II. Performance Reflection – Tier 2**

### Academic Performance

The academic progress of all of our students at La Academia is one of our highest priorities. Please refer to pages 16-30 of the school's recently submitted renewal application for a detailed description of the strategies and the progress monitoring that have been, and will continue to be, utilized to ensure that all students are showing growth in their learning processes. Additionally, we have included a narrative regarding the decisions made, and the plans to be implemented to improve areas of growth.

### Organizational Performance

*Application of the best management practices in our organizational performance framework is one of Academia's highest priorities. Please refer to pages 34-55 of Academia Antonia Alonso's renewal application for a detailed description of the different strategies implemented to continue meeting the standard expectations and making sure that our organization performs at the highest level of success.*

### Financial Performance

During the 2016 – 2017 school year, La Academia met all the Financial Performance standards with the exception of Days of Cash on Hand and Cash Flow. With both indicators this was due to the \$1.3 million capital investment the school made to retrofit 40,000 square feet of the building on the Odyssey Charter School campus it moved to in July 2016. The school

successfully funded all retrofit costs with its operating cash flow. With the completion of the retrofit process over the next two years, these indicators should, once again, meet standard.

La Academia has had a history of growing fiscal discipline since it opened in 2014, having met both its 2% contingency reserve and 100% summer pay reserve obligations, in spite of having faced major capital expenditures as it transitioned from the CEB to the Odyssey campus. In the 5-year projections included in the renewal, the school will start building a maintenance reserve so that expenditures with the replacement of large equipment (e.g. HVAC, pump systems, etc.) will not impact its operating budget. This financial performance is further evidenced by the fact that we did not have to use the M&T Bank line of credit to fund school operations. School leadership is committed to maintaining and strengthening its financial performance as it reaches full enrollment in the 2018 – 2019 school year.