

GREAT OAKS



CHARTER SCHOOLS

Great oaks, from little acorns grow

June 16, 2020

Leroy Travers
Delaware Department of Education
401 Federal Street, Suite #2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Dear Leroy,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit additional information to the Charter School Accountability Committee in support of Great Oaks' applications for minor modifications to its charter. Please see below the professional biography of Damien Burke, recently appointed to serve as Great Oaks' Chief Operations Officer. Damien will be responsible for all of the Business Manager functions and other general school operations.

Professional Biography of Damien Burke, Chief Operations Officer

Damien is excited to join the team and become part of the Great Oaks family! In his new role, Damien will work with the community to implement policies, practices, and procedures that best serve the scholars. Damien consistently puts students first. He recognizes that parents are vital partners at every step. He engages local and regional organizations to provide the best opportunities for students, parents, and staff.

Damien earned a chemical engineering degree from the University of Virginia and an Executive MBA from the University of Delaware. He found his calling in 2009, when he was admitted to the Broad Residency Program. Through Broad, Damien worked for the Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia to oversee the district-wide implementations of strategic projects. He then worked as a College Access Consultant for several years before taking a role as Dean of College and Career Readiness at a charter high school. Damien has viewed public secondary education through many lenses and brings this experience to Great Oaks. He views the lack of equitable public education options as a fundamental social justice issue of our time and is resolved to make a difference. Damien comes to Great Oaks from TeenSHARP, where he served as the Executive Director.

Sincerely,
Leland Kent, Sr.
Leland Kent, Sr.
Executive Director

cc: Jim Mazarakis, Board Chair
Linda Jennings