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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 17, 2015

KENNER DISCOVERY SCHOOL EARNS “A” RANKING

Kenner, LA. – Just two years after opening as Kenner’s first public charter school, Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy has earned an A rating, the highest possible achievement for public schools in Louisiana.

The scores, based on testing from the 2014-15 academic year, were released Thursday by the state Department of Education. Overall, the state earned a B. The state uses a 150-point scale to grade schools and convert the number scores into a letter grade. Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy is an open enrollment pre-K to 8th grade public charter school. The school opened in the fall of 2013 and recently received approval to expand to high school.

The grassroots support for a charter school in Kenner grew out of research conducted by Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni’s Economic Development Committee. The group was formed shortly after Yenni, the Jefferson Parish President-elect, was elected to his first term in Kenner in 2010.

The group sought out information on both the positives and negatives in Kenner in the eyes of both residents and visitors. Over and over again, residents mentioned the desire for quality public education choices, particularly in grades 5 through 12 - inside city limits.

“I commend both Head of School Dr. Patty Glaser and the incredible team she has put together for becoming an A school in just two short years,” Yenni said. “When you add the Discovery school to the excellent public and parochial schools in the city, it’s clear that the face of education in Kenner is changing for the better,” he said.

Glaser, meanwhile, thanked everyone from the students and faculty to the parents.

“The goal of the Discovery Board and I was to be an A school, which we achieved due to the team work of our committed faculty, working diligently with students. In our second year, we accepted 165 new students from 15 different schools and we were able to achieve an A. We are very proud of this accomplishment.”

The Discovery school, which opened with 420 students in 2013, now has a study body of more than 800 students and nearly 100 faculty members. The Discovery school will add 9th grade next year and 2020 will mark the first class to graduate high school at Discovery.

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