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Statement on Charter Schools, delivered on February 14, 2014

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

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Arend D. Lubbers
President Emeritus
Grand Valley State University
February 14, 2014

When Charter School legislation was passed, Board members at Grand Valley State University saw an opportunity to encourage healthy competition in K-12 education. Higher education is strong in Michigan because of the independence of its state universities; an independence the Constitution of 1963 guarantees. By injecting the same kind of competition that comes with independence into K-12 education we thought good charter schools would be helpful toward the improvement of traditional public schools. To a significant degree this has happened, and where it has not, the demand for charter schools persist.

Though views about the charter school movement are varied, I believe charter schools have proven themselves to be important and successful in Michigan. They are part of our Michigan education landscape.

The leadership in Charter Schools at Grand Valley is and has been consistently excellent. The staff, present and past, deserve a medal of honor for their high standards and commitment to a movement that makes a positive difference in the lives of many children and youth.