

# EDSYS, INC.

## EDUCATION DELIVERY SYSTEMS

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City Charter High School to Open in September, 2002**

The Pittsburgh Board of Public Education has granted a charter to EDSYS, Inc. to open a charter high school in September 2002. City Charter High School is a model 21<sup>st</sup> century high school that dramatically alters traditional learning environments. The school design is based on educational best practices, industry and academic partnerships, organizational innovations and technological advances.

The mission of City Charter High School will be to graduate young adults who are prepared academically, technically, personally and socially to participate and succeed in post-secondary education and/or employment in technology-related fields. The school differs from traditional comprehensive public high schools in its academic program, workforce orientation and organizational structure.

EDSYS, Inc. is a non-profit organization Co-Directed by Richard Wertheimer and Mario Zinga, two Pittsburgh Public School teachers. While on a leave of absence during 2001, Wertheimer and Zinga designed the school and applied for the charter. They met with numerous community, corporate and academic institutions and have gathered a diverse group of partners. Their partners include high-tech companies, colleges, post-secondary training schools, local foundations and workforce development organizations. Wertheimer states "There are only a handful of career oriented, high technology high schools in the country. This school will raise Pittsburgh's profile as a leader educationally in the new economy."

City Charter High School will begin in September with 156 ninth graders and grow yearly to a capacity of 600 students. As a charter school, the educational program is free and open to the public. Residents of Pittsburgh may apply for the school starting on April 1, 2002. Pittsburgh residents will be given first priority until June 1<sup>st</sup>. After that date, students from Allegheny County may apply. Students will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. The school will be located in downtown Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle.

Unique aspects of the school include a laptop for every student, a membership in the Downtown YMCA for every student, the Great Books curriculum, workplace internships for all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders and project-based learning. Unique organizational components include master/apprentice teachers, trimesters, a workday consistent with future employment and team teaching.

**Pittsburgh, PA -- February 28, 2002 --**

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