



George Washington Academy, a Core Knowledge School, Is Utah's Charter School of the Year

(Charlottesville, VA, July 10, 2013) The Core Knowledge Foundation congratulates George Washington Academy, which uses the *Core Knowledge Sequence*, on being named the Utah Public Charter School Association's Charter School of the Year.

George Washington Academy is a high-performing, kindergarten through eighth grade school in St. George, Utah, with about 1,000 students. Strongly committed to continuous improvement, the school eagerly participated in an evaluation on April 18-19, 2012, by Utah State Office of Education's Accreditation Visiting Team. The Team provided excellent feedback, and noted the school's many strengths:

One of the greatest strengths of this school is its culture. From the moment one walks on campus, it is demonstrated by the students' happiness to be present, the teachers' willingness to be involved in the development of programs that support acceleration for students, the parents' willingness to volunteer in the school, and a supportive Board and Administration. The dedication to the building and what goes into it, the programs and technology available to teachers and students, and the continuous growth of the learning environment all indicate that the mission and beliefs guide the decisions and policies of this school....

The Core Knowledge curriculum challenges all students in inquiry, problem solving, and higher-order thinking skills by reflecting upon classical education and integrating curriculum areas to build knowledge upon knowledge in those various areas. Students are challenged above their grade levels, giving every child the opportunity to excel.

To read the full evaluation, please see <http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/accred/Reports/DOCS/George-Washington-Acad-VT-Report-2012.aspx>.

Linda Bevilacqua, president of the Core Knowledge Foundation, said: "Core Knowledge congratulates George Washington Academy for earning recognition as Utah's Charter School of the Year. George Washington Academy's dedicated staff, led by Principal Donald Fawson, exemplifies the best of a Core Knowledge education. By engaging their students in a content-rich curriculum in language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science, and the fine arts, they ensure that their graduates have the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills they need for further education and productive citizenship."

To learn more about George Washington Academy, visit the school's website at <http://www.gwacademy.org/> and watch this short video <http://vimeo.com/68514774>.

To learn more about the *Core Knowledge Sequence*, which is available online for free, see: <http://www.coreknowledge.org/download-the-sequence>