

Abstract Narrative

Project Title: Replicating Carmen: A Path to College and Family-Sustaining Careers for Milwaukee's Most Disadvantaged Youth

Project Description: Carmen Schools of Science and Technology (Carmen) requests \$2,348,343 over four years to replicate its successful model and open three new middle and high schools in underserved areas adding 1,950 new high-performing seats in grades 6-12 when schools are at full capacity. Founded in 2007, Carmen is a results-driven college preparatory charter school network that has operated two distinct charter schools under contracts authorized by Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). Over 85% of Carmen students meet Federal qualifying guidelines for Free or Reduced Priced Lunch (FRPL) and over 90% identify as either Hispanic or African American.

Goals and Expected Outcomes: (1) Meet the demand for student seats at high quality Carmen schools by increasing the number of Carmen schools. (2) Replicate the Carmen education model with fidelity at three new schools. (3) Share components and best practices of the Carmen education model with a traditional public high school through a strategic partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools.

Contribution to Research, Policy, and Practice: Carmen will evaluate the performance of each replicated school as well as the success of a strategic partnership between one of the new Carmen high schools and a traditional district high school. The results will be disseminated to local and national education communities.