

**Academy of Higher Learning  
Ministries of the Living Stones, Inc.  
32930 Fair Game Ave, Sterling, Alaska 99672**

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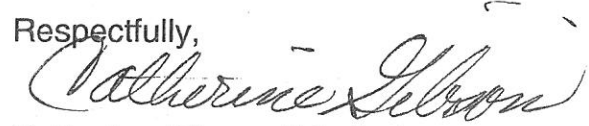
Monday, February 03, 2014

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

I am faxing to you various testimonies of parents regarding the Education their children have received at our private school. We have received no funding.

I apologize for lack of composition and organization. Time has not permitted for me to compile this information for you aesthetically.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine Gibson".

Catherine Gibson, Principal

**Vision:**

It is our vision to be a Christian school for an overcoming generation; a generation of young people who will have the strength of character to go forward into the world leading mature lives, spiritually and academically.

**Mission:**

Academy of Higher Learning's mission is to work to enable Christian families to work together with our Christian teachers to effectively prepare students for life.



#### **HISTORY OF ACADEMY HIGHER LEARNING:**

My teen-age daughter wanted to be a hooker and a drug-dealer. The last resort was sending her to a personal friend and founder of MLS. Ministry of the Living Stones saved my daughter's life. They loved her with an unconditional love that she had never experienced before, even in the churches she had grown-up in. I came to Alaska to say "thank you". When I visited Alaska, I saw a tremendous need. Many other young people needed help too, just as my daughter had needed help. We parents so badly want to help our own kids, and can't. But we can help other parents with their kids; and that's what we're doing.

We won't mention any names or ages because the children deserve the dignity and privacy of their own lives. With my teaching career and desire to give back to these people who had saved my daughter's life, I came to Sterling, Alaska to help save these troubled teens. I believe, with God's help we are making a difference.

Our goals for Academy of Higher Learning, MLS, Inc. are:

- Better Education – 100% Graduation rate
- Higher Standards – 95% of graduates attend college, all are prepared for college academics
- Greater Morality – zero incidents of violence; a drug-free environment; zero teen-pregnancy rate; Life skills learned along with academics.
- Unification of the Family
- International Travel for Students for a healthy, happy, productive life.

The Academy of Higher Learning, MLS, Inc. uses accredited curriculum K-12. Evolving from a single trailer, the Academy of Higher Learning has grown into a state-recognized

K through 12 school. The Principal/Teacher won the 1998 Christa McAuliffe Award for the State of Alaska.

#### **Testimonies from parents:**

I am thankful for many reasons for the Academy of Higher Learning; The first and foremost in my mind is the Christian morals that my son is learning. I am grateful for the protection the school provides. A year or two ago, some students were standing on the grounds of their school (in Anchorage, Alaska) when a stranger approached them and cut their throats. This one act opened my eyes to the security that the Academy provides for my son. I am very thankful for all the people who volunteer to help and teach my son. He was a very fearful child, shy and withdrawn. I have seen him grow into a child that will participate, laugh and play unlike I had seen him do prior to his attending the Academy of Higher Learning. . .Tina Wegener

I feel that this choice of sending our children to this Christian school has been the best decision that my husband and I have ever made. They learn Godly values and principles, and get academic teaching in a smaller classroom setting. When a situation comes up and they need extra attention in an area, they get it. . . Laura Ludvick

I am at peace, knowing that my children will not be pressured into drugs, overlooked because of a large class size, or the victim of random acts of violence. At the Academy of Higher Learning my children receive an excellent education where the teachers and parents work together to help each child succeed. My children love their school and feel safe. . . . Nicole Butler

#### **Testimonies from students:**

This school has extremely changed my life., for the better. In the fifth grade in public school, I started hanging around the wrong crowd. We would go and steal, smoke, and watch porno's, Playboy, Hustler, etc. I got busted after stealing some hood ornaments . . . When it was time to go to Junior High, I didn't want to go. So, when the opportunity came up for me to go to this private school, I took it. . . I never stole again. I learned my lesson. Each year in the Academy, kept getting easier. This year I am graduating. I have plans and goals to fulfill and with God's help, I will. . . . Charles . . . [This young man went on to graduate from the Univ. of Alaska, Anchorage, in their Mentor Mechanics School affiliated with General Motors].

This school stopped me from being " Bulimic" and destroying my body. This school watches you and allows you to grow into the adult you should be, not the one you "wanna" be. "Cause if it weren't for this school, I'd be a dropout, an alcoholic, and probably dead, by now. . . Natalie [This young woman is now attending Univ. of Alaska, Anchorage, pursuing Veterinary Medicine.]

I know that this school has (with God's help) changed my life. I came from a place where I could do and say what I wanted. In public school I was very rebellious. I flunked out of

almost all my classes; I skipped school; and most of my teachers just ruled me out as a discipline case, most likely to be killed in a shoot-out. There is so much pressure on kids at public schools. I didn't fit in. I was depressed and hated myself and my parents. I even tried to commit suicide. I planned to runaway. I thought Mom would be happy if I disappeared; we fought constantly. I decided that I was ugly and fat. I became anorexic and almost Bulimic.. At the Academy of Higher Learning my eyes were opened to see where my life was really going. God changed my heart and gave me hope and gave me a new family that loved me for just me. Now, I'm a straight 'A' student, I travel the world for God, and I have new goals and desires. . . .Kim

"In the years spent at the Academy, my grades elevated from a 'D' average to a straight 'A' average. In the years past, I was considered to be one who was slipping through 'the cracks,' yet that did not deter my teachers at the Academy. With intense hours of work and consistency, I learned to respect myself, while overcoming a variety of personal and family issues. The leadership worked with me, at times, with all the grace they possessed. They knew I could accomplish more than I was willing to admit. Not only did they push me, but they also gave me encouragement--two of the fundamentals in developing self-respect. They gave even the most 'problematic child' the opportunity to progress. I am a product of their hard work and can say these things freely because I was the 'problematic child'." . . Maggie

My son has been attending this school since third grade; my daughter since kindergarten. My son is now a sophomore in high school; my daughter is now in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I feel that this choice for sending our children to this Christian school has been the best decision that my husband and I have ever made. They learn Godly values and principals. They get the academic teachings in a smaller classroom setting. When a situation comes up and they need extra attention in an area, they get it. My children have bonded very closely with the other students. This is very helpful, because they have learned to lean on them and support one another. Thank you for such a great school.

*Jennifer Scheller 2009*

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2/20/13

December 7, 2001

I have three children attending the Academy of Higher Learning. We have been apart of this school for 8 years. One of my children attended the public school for a while because she has a learning disability. They had told me she would never read. After 5 years of hearing this I brought her to the Academy. She is now reading and doing math. She has progressed well under the care of the teachers. A smaller setting has enabled her to have "one on one" attention where the opportunity to learn was available. My other children are doing well and advancing in their education. The teachers are willing to give extra help where it maybe needed. I am thankful for this school.

Sincerely,  
Holly Brazington

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*Why I am thankful for the Academy of Higher Learning, MLS, Inc.*

*I am thankful for many reasons. The first and foremost in my mind is the Christian morals that my son is learning. I am grateful for the protection the school provides. A year or two ago, some students were standing on the grounds of their school when a stranger approached them and cut their throats. This one act opened my eyes to the security that the Academy provides for my son.*

*The school has taught and is always teaching Godly morals, respect to others and oneself and of course the ABC's. I am very thankful for all the people who volunteer to help and teach my son. He was a very fearful child, shy and withdrawn. I have seen him grow into a child that will participate, laugh and play unlike I had seen him do prior to his attending the Academy of Higher Learning.*

*Keenan's mom  
Tina Wegener*

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2/20/13*



December 7, 2001

I am very grateful that my two children have been attending the Academy of Higher Learning since kindergarten. I am at peace knowing that my children will not be pressured into drugs, overlooked because of a large class size, or the victim of random acts of violence. At the Academy of Higher Learning my children receive an excellent education where the teachers and parents work together to help each child succeed. My children love their school and feel safe.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Butler

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September, 97

Information statement

Re: Academy of Higher Learning, MLS, Inc

Academy of Higher Learning began as a vision, a vision for a drug-free, knife-free, gang-free, safe environment with high academic standards in which our children could learn, a vision for a school where children could grow spiritually, mentally and physically. Parents built the Academy of Higher Learning.

The Alaska State Board of Education adopted Alaska Student Performance Standards in August 1994. In that document there is a statement that reads, "Responsibilities of the Public – Assume primary responsibility for your own children's education; . . . Require your school board to develop curriculum for each grade so that all students work toward these standards, not just the top 25%."

The Academy of Higher Learning is a private school registered with the State of Alaska. The staff includes an accredited teacher, parateachers, a psychologist, two nurses, parents and several pastors.

The curriculum is strong in Bible, phonics, grammar and composition, math, history, science and mastering the knowledge and skills needed to go forward in life, succeed in college, technical school or the work world.

Standardized academic testing is performed every year, rather than just in the fourth, eighth, and tenth grades as is required by the State of Alaska Department of Education.

High School credits earned by our students include four years of math, four years of science, four years of history, four years of English, four years of Bible, in addition to International Studies, Home Economics, Vocational training, Computers, Drama, Music, and Pentathlon sports. This curriculum goes beyond the basic credits required by the State of Alaska in order to graduate from high school.

The School Board of Directors, the staff and the parents of the Academy of Higher Learning believe in "training up a child in the way he should go," (Proverbs 22:6) training him up in his God-given gifting, training a child in Christian character and learning Christian morality, to help all mankind be healthy and whole physically, mentally, and spiritually.

amy C. Scanned 2/20/13