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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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8th Annual Maryland Charter School Conference

Maryland Charter School Network (MCSN) welcomes two education reform leaders as featured speakers at the conference. This year's theme, *Charter Schools as a Vehicle for Educational Reform* will be woven through the conference, starting with the welcoming remarks.

Steve Barr is the Key Note Speaker of the 8th Annual Maryland Charter School Conference. Steve Barr founded Green Dot Public Schools in 1999 with the vision of transforming secondary education in California by creating a number of high-performing charter high schools using available public dollars. Under Steve's leadership, Green Dot became the leading change agent in the region.

Dr. Andres Alonso, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools has had great success in the first three years of his tenure; Baltimore City students reached their highest outcomes in state exams, across all categories of students. City Schools saw its enrollment climb, following four decades of steady enrollment decline.

The 8th Annual Maryland Charter School Conference will be held on Friday, April 8th, 2011 at the Tremont Grand in Baltimore (225 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Maryland, 21201). This conference is an occasion to celebrate charter school achievements, to share best practices and to network. It is an invaluable professional development and networking opportunity for charter school leaders, founders, teachers, developers and advocates. Eighteen 75 minute breakout sessions are being offered. Special achievements of charter school administrators, and educators, and charter school of the year will be recognized.

The 8th Annual Maryland Charter School Conference is sponsored by MCSN in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education. MCSN is a non-partisan, nonprofit, statewide organization whose mission is to promote and serve the Maryland charter school movement. For more information about the conference or Maryland Charter School Network, please call 800-689-3795 or visit www.mdcharternetwork.org.

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