



# Charter Schools Institute

*The State University of New York*

## **Charter Schools Institute Names Sean G. Fitzsimons Program Analyst**

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Albany - Charter Schools Institute Executive Director Jonas S. Chartock announced Wednesday the appointment of Sean G. Fitzsimons as Program Analyst. In his primary role, Mr. Fitzsimons will support SUNY's new charter school application process by addressing questions from applicants, reviewing and analyzing new applications, coordinating the review of applications to establish new charter schools by Institute staff and external educational experts, and drafting application summaries and other related documents.

"Sean's experience with curriculum design and his strong record as an educator, both in the United States and abroad, make him a valuable asset to the Institute," said Chartock. "We are very pleased that he has come on board to provide support for such a critical function of the Institute."

Dr. Jennifer G. Sneed, Institute Senior Vice President, said, "I am looking forward to working closely with Sean to ensure that the Institute's application process continues to reflect the high standards for which it has become a national model. His experiences as a teacher, social studies department chairperson and curriculum developer will serve him well in his new role."

Mr. Fitzsimons most recently served as Chair of the Social Studies Department at Manassas Park Middle School in Manassas Park, Virginia where he guided curriculum sequencing and pacing to align the school's courses with state standards, trained and mentored faculty, and designed and implemented courses in Civics and Economics, American Studies, American History, and World Geography. He also taught remedial reading curriculum to special education students and English language learners. Prior to his service at Manassas Park Middle School, Mr. Fitzsimons was an Administrative and Research Assistant at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C. In addition, Mr. Fitzsimons was a visiting instructor at Shanghai Teachers University in Shanghai, China, where he designed and taught curriculum for English language learners.

Mr. Fitzsimons received his Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Secondary Education Social Studies from George Mason University and his Bachelor of Arts degrees in International Relations and Political Science from the State University of New York, College at Geneseo.

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The Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees to help it in carrying out its responsibilities under the Charter Schools Act. Guided by the rigorous standards set by the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Institute's oversight of SUNY authorized charter schools is comprehensive, including: evaluating initial applications for the opening of charter schools; providing technical assistance and guidance to schools where necessary; requiring schools to take remedial action or placing schools on probation; conducting a comprehensive evaluation when a school applies to renew its charter; and reporting to the school and the public on each school's performance and progress.

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