



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State



**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Bennett Venture Academy  
c/o National Heritage Academies  
3850 Broadmoor, SE Suite 201  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512-3927

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of Bennett Venture Academy, Lucas County, Ohio (the Academy), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2006, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Academy's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the contract service fees incurred by the Academy which totaled \$3,912,942 as indicated in note 10. Other auditors audited these amounts and have furnished their report thereon to us and we based our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for note 10, on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the report of other auditors provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Bennett Venture Academy, Lucas County, as of June 30, 2006, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 22, 2007, on our consideration of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

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[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)

Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires. We have applied certain limited procedures, consisting principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measuring and presenting the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

June 22, 2007

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
UNAUDITED**

The discussion and analysis of Bennett Venture Academy, Lucas County, Ohio (the Academy), financial performance provides an overall review of the Academy's financial activities through June 30, 2006. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Academy's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Academy's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Government issued June, 1999.

**Financial Highlights**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, total assets were \$170,732, total liabilities were \$150,148, and total net assets were \$20,584. Since fiscal year 2006 was the first year of operation for Bennett Venture Academy there is no comparative information to discuss.

**Using this Financial Report**

This report consists of three parts, the MD&A, the basic financial statements, and notes to those statements. The basic financial statements include a Statement of Net Assets, a Statement of Revenue, Expense and Changes in Net Assets, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

**Reporting the Academy as a Whole**

One of the most important questions asked about the Academy is, "As a whole, what is the Academy's financial condition as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, which appear first in the Academy's financial statements, report information on the Academy as whole and its activities in a way that helps you answer this question. We prepare these statements to include all assets and liabilities, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Academy's net assets – the difference between assets and liabilities, as reported in the statement of net assets – as one way to measure the Academy's financial health or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Academy's net assets – as reported in the Statement of Net Assets – are indicators of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The relationship between revenues and expenses is the Academy's operating results. However, the Academy's goal is to provide services to our students, not to generate profits as commercial entities do. One must consider many other non-financial factors, such as the quality of the education provided and the safety of the school, to assess the overall health of the Academy.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities report the activities for the Academy, which encompass all the Academy's services, including instruction, support services, community services, and food services. Unrestricted state aid and state and federal grants finance most of these activities. The Academy has entered into a management agreement with National Heritage Academies, Inc. (NHA) which requires NHA to provide administration, strategic planning and all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the provision of educational services to students. As part of the consideration received under the management agreement, NHA also provides the facility in which the Academy operates. Under the terms of the agreement, NHA receives as remuneration for its services an amount equal to the total revenue received by the Academy from all revenue sources.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Academy's net assets for fiscal year 2006:

(Table 1) Net Assets	
	<u>2006</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 170,732
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	\$ 150,148
<b>Net Assets</b>	
<i>Total Net Assets - Unrestricted</i>	<u><u>\$ 20,584</u></u>

The unrestricted net assets represent the accumulated results of the Academy's operations to date. These assets can be used to finance day to day operations without constraints, such as legislative or legal requirements. The results of the current year operations for the Academy as a whole are reported in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets, which shows the change in net assets.



**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets**

Table 2 shows the changes in net assets for fiscal year 2006 as well as a listing of revenues and expenses.

(Table 2)  
Change in Net Assets

	2006
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>	
Foundation Payments	\$ 2,648,900
Food Services	21,797
Other	14,990
<b>Non-Operating Revenues:</b>	
Federal Grants	261,308
State Grants	5,000
Private Sources - NHA, Inc	981,531
<i>Total Revenues</i>	3,933,526
 <b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Contracted Service Fee	3,912,942
<i>Total Expenses</i>	3,912,942
<i>Increase in Net Assets</i>	\$ 20,584

As reported in the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net assets, the cost of business-type activities was \$3,912,942. These activities were primarily funded by the Academy's state aid (based on student count) and governments and organizations that subsidized certain programs with grants. Revenues – Private sources—NHA represent a credit granted by NHA for the excess of Academy's expenses over public revenues available.

The Academy experienced an increase in net assets of \$20,584 in 2006. Under the terms of the agreement with NHA, NHA provides a spending account to the Board of Directors for discretionary expenditures. The primary reason for the change in net assets is the timing of these discretionary expenditures.

**General Economic Factors**

The Academy depends on legislative and governmental support to fund its operations. Based on information currently available, no significant changes are expected to occur in the nature of the funding or operations of the Academy in 2007.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
UNAUDITED  
(Continued)**

***Contacting the Academy's Financial Management***

The financial report is designed to provide users of the report with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to demonstrate the Academy's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report, contact the Chief Financial Officer of National Heritage Academies, Inc., 3850 Broadmoor SE, Ste 201, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512-3927.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS  
JUNE 30, 2006

**Assets**

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 20,584
Intergovernmental Receivables	150,148
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>170,732</u>

<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>170,732</u>
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**Liabilities**

Current Liabilities:

Intergovernmental Payable	127
Due to National Heritage Academies	150,021
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>150,148</u>

<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>150,148</u>
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**Net Assets**

Unrestricted	<u>20,584</u>
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<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 20,584</u></u>
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SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Foundation Payments	\$ 2,648,900
Food Services	21,797
Other Revenues	<u>14,990</u>
<i>Total Operating Revenues</i>	<u>2,685,687</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Contracted Service Fee	<u>3,912,942</u>
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>3,912,942</u>
<i>Operating Loss</i>	<u>(1,227,255)</u>
<b>Non-Operating Revenues</b>	
Federal Grants	261,308
State Grants	5,000
Private Sources - National Heritage Academies, Inc	<u>981,531</u>
<i>Total Non-Operating Revenues</i>	<u>1,247,839</u>
<i>Change in Net Assets</i>	20,584
<i>Net Assets Beginning of Year</i>	<u>                    </u>
<i>Net Assets End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$ 20,584</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
PROPRIETARY FUND  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

**Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents:**

<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</u>	
Cash Received from State of Ohio	\$ 2,649,027
Cash Received for Food Services	21,797
Cash Received from Other Operating Revenues	14,990
Cash Payments on Behalf of the Academy for Goods and Services	<u>(3,762,921)</u>
<i>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</i>	<u>(1,077,107)</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities:</u>	
Federal Grants Received	111,160
State Grants Received	5,000
Support from Private Sources - National Heritage Academies	<u>981,531</u>
<i>Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities</i>	<u>1,097,691</u>
<i>Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	<u>20,584</u>
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year</i>	<u>                    </u>
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$ 20,584</u></u>

**Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net  
Cash Used for Operating Activities:**

Operating Loss	\$ (1,227,255)
<b>Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</b>	
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
Increase in Intergovernmental Payable	127
Increase in Due to National Heritage Academies, Inc	<u>150,021</u>
<i>Total Adjustments</i>	<u>150,148</u>
<i>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ (1,077,107)</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

**1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS**

Bennett Venture Academy (the "Academy") is an Ohio Public School Academy which provides education based on rigorous teaching methods, parental involvement, student responsibility, and basic moral values. The Academy was incorporated on December 13, 2004, and began operating during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. There were no financial transactions prior to July 1, 2005.

The Academy operates under an approved charter received from Lucas County Educational Service Center ("LCESC"), which is responsible for oversight of the Academy's operations. The charter will automatically renew on a year-to-year basis, unless at least 90 days written notice is given by either the Academy or LCESC. Effective July 22, 2005, the sponsorship of the Academy was assigned from LCESC to Buckeye Community Hope Foundation. The Academy provides education to students in kindergarten through the fifth grade, at no cost to the parent. Enrollment is open to all appropriately aged children without regard to gender, ethnic background, disability, and/or religious affiliation.

The Academy operates under the direction of a Board of Directors (the Board). The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor which include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers.

The Board of Directors of the Academy has entered into a management agreement (the "agreement") with National Heritage Academies, Inc. ("NHA") which requires NHA to provide administration, strategic planning and all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the provision of educational services to students. As part of the consideration received under the agreement, NHA also provides the facility in which the Academy operates. The agreement will automatically renew on a year-to-year basis, unless at least 90 days written notice of intent to terminate or renegotiate is given by either the Academy or NHA.

Under the terms of the agreement, NHA receives as remuneration for its services an amount equal to the total revenue received by the Academy from all revenue sources. NHA provides a spending account to the Board of Directors for discretionary expenditures on an annual basis. Revenues—private sources—National Heritage Academies, Inc. represent a contribution granted by NHA for the excess of Academy expenditures over public revenues available.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of Bennett Venture Academy have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Academy also applies Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) statements and interpretations issued on or before November 30, 1989, provided they do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. The more significant of the Academy's accounting policies are described below.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (Continued)**

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The Academy's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net assets, a statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net assets, and a statement of cash flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in net assets, financial position, and cash flows.

**B. Measurement Focus**

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities are included on the statement of net assets. The statement of changes in net assets presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total assets. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the Academy finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise activities.

**C. Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The Academy's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis.

Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

**D. Budgetary Process**

The contract between the School and its Sponsor prescribes an annual budget requirement in addition to preparing a 5-year forecast, which is to be updated on an annual basis. Chapter 5705.391(A) of the Ohio Revised Code also requires the School to prepare a 5-year forecast, update it annually, and submit it to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Ohio Department of Education.

**E. Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (Continued)**

**F. Cash Deposits**

For cash management, all cash received by the Chief Financial Officer is pooled in a non-interest bearing central bank account. Total cash for the Academy is presented as “Cash and Cash Equivalents” on the accompanying Statement of Net Assets. Cash as of June 30, 2006, represents bank deposits, which are covered by federal depository insurance.

**G. Current Liabilities**

**Due to National Heritage Academies, Inc.**—this amount consists of payments due to National Heritage Academies, Inc. for management services rendered in Fiscal Year 2006.

**H. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

**Intergovernmental Revenues**—the Academy currently participates in the State Foundation Program, the State Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) Program, and the State Special Education Program. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Grants and entitlements are recognized as non-operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis.

**I. Net Assets**

Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation adopted through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. At fiscal year end June 30, 2006, the Academy had no restricted net assets.

**3. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

At fiscal year end June 30, 2006, the Academy’s bank balance was \$20,814. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, “Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure,” as of June 30, 2006, none of the bank balance was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below, all of the bank balance was covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Academy will not be able to recover the deposits. All deposits are collateralized with eligible securities in amounts equal to at least 105% of the carrying value of the deposits. Such collateral, as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code, is held in single financial institution collateral pools at the Federal Reserve Banks or at member banks of the federal reserve system, in the name of the respective depository bank and pledged as a pool of collateral against all of the public deposits it holds or as specific collateral held at the Federal Reserve Bank in the name of the Academy.



**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**4. RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at June 30, 2006, consisted of intergovernmental grants. All receivables are considered collectible in full and will be received within one year.

A summary of the principal items of receivables follows:

<u>Intergovernmental Receivables</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Title I '06	128,053
Title IIA '06	6,960
Title IID '06	2,562
Title V '06	140
School Lunch '06	12,433
Total Intergovernmental Receivables	\$ 150,148

**5. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

**A. School Employees Retirement System**

NHA on behalf of employees at the Academy contributes to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. SERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the School Employees Retirement System, 300 East Broad Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3476.

Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and NHA is required to contribute an actuarially determined rate. The current NHA rate is 14 percent of annual covered payroll. A portion of NHA's contribution is used to fund pension obligations with the remainder being used to fund health care benefits; for fiscal year 2006, 10.58 percent of annual covered salary was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended, up to a statutory maximum amount, by the SERS' Retirement Board. NHA's required contributions for pension obligations to SERS for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, were \$16,811, and 100 percent was contributed for Fiscal Year 2006.

**B. State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio**

NHA on behalf of employees at the Academy participates in the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio), a cost-sharing multiple employer public employee retirement systems. STRS Ohio provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS Ohio issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the STRS Ohio, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3371 or by calling (614) 227-4090.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**5. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS – (Continued)**

New members have a choice of three retirement plans, a defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary times a percentage that varies based on years of service, or an allowance based on member contributions and earned interest matched by STRS Ohio funds times an actuarially determined annuity factor. The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and employer contributions equal to 10.5 percent of earned compensation into an investment account. Investment decisions are made by the member. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The Combined Plan offers features of both the DC Plan and the DB Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are invested by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. DC and Combined Plan members will transfer to the DB Plan during their fifth year of membership unless they permanently select the DC or Combined Plan. Existing members with less than five years of service credit as of June 30, 2001, were given the option of making a one time irrevocable decision to transfer their account balances from the existing DB Plan into the DC Plan or the combined Plan. This option expired on December 31, 2001. Benefits are established by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code.

A DBP or CP member with five or more years credited service who becomes disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible spouses and dependents of these active members who die before retirement may qualify for survivor benefits. Members in the DCP who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, plan members were required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salaries. NHA was required to contribute 14 percent; 13 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. Contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board, upon recommendation of its consulting actuary, not to exceed statutory maximum rates of 10 percent for members and 14 percent for employers. Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions.

The NHA's required contributions for pension obligation to STRS Ohio for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, was \$103,703; 100 percent was contributed for Fiscal Year 2006.

**6. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

The Academy provides comprehensive health care benefits to retired teachers and their dependents through the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS Ohio) and to retired, non-certified employees and their dependents through the School Employees Retirement System (SERS). Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs, and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare premiums. All benefit recipients and sponsored dependents are eligible for health care coverage. Benefit provisions and the obligations to contribute are established by the Systems based on authority granted by state statute. Both systems are on a pay-as-you-go basis.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**6. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – (Continued)**

All STRS Ohio benefit recipients and sponsored dependents are eligible for health care coverage. The STRS Ohio Board has statutory authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care cost in the form of a monthly premium. By law, the cost of coverage paid from STRS Ohio funds is included in the employer contribution rate, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. The Retirement Board allocates employer contributions to the Health Care Reserve Fund from which health care benefits are paid. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, the STRS Ohio Board allocated employer contributions equal to 1.0 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Reserve Fund. For the Academy, this amount equaled \$7,977 for fiscal year 2006.

STRS Ohio pays health care benefits from the Health Care Reserve Fund. At June 30, 2005 (the latest information available) the balance in the Fund was \$3.3 billion. For the year ended June 30, 2005, net health care costs paid by STRS Ohio were \$254,780,000 and STRS Ohio had 115,395 eligible benefit recipients.

For SERS, coverage is made available to service retirees with ten or more fiscal years of qualifying service credit, and to disability and survivor benefit recipients. All members must pay a portion of their premium for health care. The portion is based on years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status. A safety net is in place for retirees whose household income falls below federal poverty levels. Premiums are reduced by 50 percent for those who apply.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, employer contributions to fund health care benefits were 3.42 percent of covered payroll. In addition, SERS levies a surcharge to fund health care benefits equal to 14 percent of the difference between a minimum pay and the member's pay, pro-rated for partial service credit. For fiscal year 2006, the minimum pay was established at \$35,800. For the Academy, the amount contributed to fund health care benefits, including the surcharge, during the 2006 fiscal year equaled \$5,434.

The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate, provides for maintenance of the asset target level for the health care fund. The target level for the health care reserve is 150 percent of the annual health care expenses. Expenses for health care for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, were \$178,221,113. The target level for the health care fund is 150 percent of the projected claims less premium contributions for the next fiscal year. As of June 30, 2005, the value of the health care fund was \$267.5 million, which is about 168 percent of next year's projected net health care costs of \$158,776,151. On the basis of actuarial projections, the allocated contributions will be sufficient, in the long-term, to provide for a health care reserve equal to at least 150 percent of estimated annual net claim costs. SERS has approximately 58,123 participants currently receiving health care benefits.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability. Commercial insurance policies to cover certain risks of loss have been obtained through Indiana Insurance Company. General liability coverage provides \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate with no deductible. The Indiana Insurance Company also provides umbrella liability coverage of \$2,000,000 per occurrence, as well as, in the aggregate.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**8. CONTINGENCIES**

**A. Grants**

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts, which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect of the financial position of the Academy.

**B. Litigation**

A suit was filed in the US District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division on October 6, 2004, which challenges the funding of charter schools under the Equal Protection, Due Process and claims violation of a right to vote on the bodies administering public schools. The case is still pending. The effect of this suit, if any, on Bennett Venture Academy is not presently determinable.

**C. State Funding**

The Ohio Department of Education reviews enrollment data and full time equivalency (FTE) calculations made by the schools. These reviews ensure the schools are reporting accurate student enrollment data of the State, upon which state foundation funding is calculated. ODE has conducted a review of the Academy's 2006 student enrollment data and FTE calculations. For fiscal year 2006, the results of this review resulted in a decrease of \$127 which is reported as an intergovernmental payable on the Statement of Net Assets.

**9. RELATED PARTY**

The Board members of Bennett Venture Academy are also the same Board members for Winterfield Venture Academy; both Academies are managed by National Heritage Academies, Inc.

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006  
(Continued)**

**10. MANAGEMENT COMPANY DISCLOSURE - CONTRACTED SERVICE FEE**

NHA has informed the Academy that the contracted service fee includes payment for the following:

Instruction		
Basic instruction	\$	1,393,448
Added needs		61,330
Special education		132,156
Support services:		
Pupil services		65,024
Instructional staff		121,645
Board of education		28,611
Executive administration		200,414
State and federal relations		27,517
Office of the principal		282,655
Business support services		297,335
Operations and maintenance		916,582
Central services		259,688
Food services		126,537
Total contracted service fee	<u>\$</u>	<u>3,912,942</u>

**11. SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Academy entered into a sponsorship agreement with the Buckeye Community Hope Foundation on July 22, 2005. This agreement provides the Buckeye Community Hope Foundation receives one percent of State Foundation funds received by the Academy from the State of Ohio. This amounted to \$25,416 for fiscal year 2006.

**12. OPERATING LEASE**

The Academy has entered into a sub-lease agreement with National Heritage Academies for a facility to house the Academy. The lease term is from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. Annual rental payments required by the lease are \$692,160, payable in twelve monthly payments of \$57,680. This lease is renewable on a year to year basis.

The Academy subsequently renewed the sub-lease with National Heritage Academies on July 13, 2006, for the period of July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Annual rental payments required by the lease are \$798,240, payable in twelve monthly payments of \$66,520.

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# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Bennett Venture Academy  
c/o National Heritage Academies  
3850 Broadmoor, SE Suite 201  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512-3927

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the basic financial statements of Bennett Venture Academy, Lucas County, Ohio (the Academy), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated June 22, 2007, which indicated that the amounts presented in note 10 were audited by other auditors. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Academy's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures in order to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Academy's management dated June 22, 2007 we reported a matter involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem a reportable condition.

### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Academy's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. In a separate letter to the Academy's management dated June 22, 2007, we reported a matter related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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Bennett Venture Academy  
Lucas County  
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on  
Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards*  
Page 2

We intend this report solely for the information and use of Management, the Audit Committee, the Governing Board, and the Sponsor. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

June 22, 2007





**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

**BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY**

**LUCAS COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

**This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.**

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
AUGUST 2, 2007**