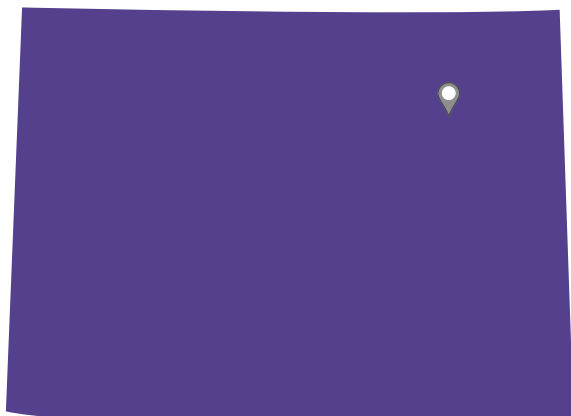


Colorado



QUICK FACTS ON GÜLEN CHARTER SCHOOLS COLORADO



NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

1 

KNOWN AS

Lotus School for Excellence

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

839

CHARTER VENDOR

Accord Institute for Education

TOTAL REVENUES

\$7,600,000

RELATED INSTITUTIONS



Magnolia



Sonoran, Paragon



Coral



Beehive

Attempted Networks



Pioneer



Sonoran



Coral

KEY PEOPLE



Bilal Temel



Umit (Matt) Yapanel



Alptekin Kavi



Tufan Hakan Batan



Timur "Tim" Saka



Zhandos Utegulov

SCANDAL

In 2014 LSE and its principal at the time were sued for illegal employment discrimination on the basis of national origin and for retaliation. They had noticed that the school's faculty comprised nearly **half Turkish individuals on H-1B visas**, and that these individuals **were paid substantially more** per year despite having less experience, less qualifications, and more parent complaints.



FINANCIAL ISSUES

Colorado requires its charter schools to undergo annual audits, which are made public. These audits showcase a series of ongoing financial issues at LSE that are endemic to other Gülen Organization charter networks. The numerous audit findings occur across multiple years, including:



Overspending



Failure to use federal funds appropriately



Loans to related parties



Overpayment to related construction companies



Liabilities exceeding assets



Purchase of a facility prior to securing charter renewal

SCHOOL CLOSURES



LSE got off to an extremely rocky start with its authorizer, Aurora Public Schools. LSE failed to obtain a certificate of occupancy prior to moving into its facility. As a result, **the state closed the school, and the school was relocated.**

All figures based on available data for 2015-2016 academic year.

Quick Facts

- ▶ Region: Western
- ▶ School Names (known as): Lotus School for Excellence
- ▶ Total # of Schools in State: 1 operating, at least 2 failed attempts.
- ▶ Total Student Enrollment 2015-2016: 839¹
- ▶ Charter Holder/Governing Board(s):
 - ▷ Lotus School for Excellence, Inc.
 - Organized as a Non-profit with 501(c)(3) status
 - Runs 1 school
- ▶ Charter Management Services Vendor: Accord Institute for Education
- ▶ Regional Gülen Organization Oversight Entity: Accord Institute for Education
- ▶ Regional Sister Networks: Magnolia (CA), Sonoran (AZ), Paragon (AZ); Coral (NV); Beehive (UT). Attempted Networks: Pioneer (OR); Sonoran (HI); Coral (WA)².
- ▶ Total Revenues for the 2015-2016 school year: \$7.6 million.³
- ▶ Colorado Network Founders:
 - ▷ Bilal Temel: Founder and board member for Lotus from 2003-2008. Now, Temel lives in Irvine, California and is affiliated with the Gülenist Pacifica Institute,⁴ Magnolia's main cultural association partner, and has advocated for Magnolia's Santa Clara campus.⁵
 - ▷ Umit (Matt) Yapanel: Served on the Lotus board from 2006-2012 while simultaneously working for LSE's vendor, Accord Institute, a clear conflict.⁶ From 2012 to present, Yapanel has served on the Magnolia board (CA). Yapanel has admitted to his conflicting employment with Accord as well as following Gülen.⁷
 - ▷ Alptekin Kavi: Founder and board member for Lotus from 2003-2006, loaned school approximately \$145,000 with interest, attended Gülenist university in Turkey.⁸ Forced to resign from Lotus board by authorizer.
 - ▷ Tufan Hakan Batan: Founder and board member for Lotus from 2003-2006, loaned school approximately \$130,000 with interest.
 - ▷ Timur "Tim" Saka: Openly Gülenist,⁹ founder of Lotus in 2003, start-up coordinator for Lotus School for Excellence,¹⁰ then left to found and teach at the Beehive charter

¹ Student demographic information available at: <http://tinyurl.com/n3aeduz> (last checked 3/24/2017)

² Coral Academy of Science Application that was later denied by the Washington State Charter Commission available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hvytvse> (last checked 2/1/2017).

³ Annual 2015-16 audit available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z3wzapd> (last checked 3/24/2017).

⁴ Bharath, Deepa, "Breaking bread, building bridges: Muslim and Jewish communities share Shabbat and Ramadan" The Orange County Register (July 2, 2016) available at: <http://tinyurl.com/gqwq339> (last checked 2/8/2017).

⁵ Bilal Temel logged a supporter comment on a petition to keep Magnolia's Santa Clara campus open, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/j9732no> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁶ See Yapanel's LinkedIn information, available at: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/umit-yapanel-98b4b011>, and the conference agenda from Accord's conference showing Yapanel as an Accord employee in 2010, also available at: http://accordeducationconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Accord_2010_Schedule.pdf.

⁷ For an article featuring comments by Yapanel, see <http://tinyurl.com/z5yw94z>, (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁸ Kavi resume listing Middle East Technical University, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hksh57p> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁹ <http://tinyurl.com/jhdrwhq> (last checked 2/9/2017).

¹⁰ Aurora Public Schools board meeting minutes 2005, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zynyejb> (last checked 2/9/2017).

network (UT),¹¹ became principal in the Magnolia (CA) network,¹² and now serves as the events coordinator for the Gülenist cultural association Peace Islands Institute and director of the Turkish Cultural Center in Syracuse, NY leading junkets to Turkey for local politicians.¹³

- ▷ Zhandos Utegulov: Founder and board member of Lotus from

2003-2008, founder of Horizon Science Academy Dayton and Horizon Science Academy Cincinnati, both Concept (OH) schools in 2004,¹⁴ contributing author to *The Fountain Magazine*, a known Gülenist publication,¹⁵ member of the Gülenist Niagara Foundation,¹⁶ and now serves as a professor at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan.¹⁷

Overview

As of the 2016-2017 school year, Colorado has only one known Gülen Organization charter school in operation. Lotus School for Excellence ("LSE") is based in Aurora, Colorado and is governed by Lotus School for Excellence, Inc., ("Lotus") a non-profit governing board of directors in operation since 2003. Lotus pays rent to the Lotus School for Excellence Foundation

("Lotus Foundation"), a separate non-profit entity that serves as its landlord entity but is comprised of the same Turkish leadership as the Lotus governing board. Lotus contracts with the Gülen Organization's Western regional oversight entity, Accord Institute for Education ("Accord") to provide services to its schools for a portion of the school's revenues.

School	Operation	Student Demographic Information*	Authorizer	Governing Board
Lotus School for Excellence 11001 E. Alameda Ave. Aurora, CO 80012	2006-Present	67% FRL 39% African American 19% Caucasian 38% Hispanic	Aurora Public Schools (local school district)	Lotus School for Excellence, Inc.
<i>Lotus School for Excellence - Longmont Campus</i>	<i>Denied 2010 due to inadequate facilities, insufficient community support, lack of success at LSE, and conflict of interest concerns re: board members selling services to school.</i>		<i>St. Vrain Valley School District</i>	<i>Lotus School for Excellence, Inc.</i>

¹¹ Pictures from 2006 event with Tim Saka's class from Beehive, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kngjyhf> (last checked 3/23/2017).

¹² Saka was the principal at MSA-Santa Clara, see annual report submitted by Saka, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/mruej3s> (last checked 3/23/2017).

¹³ For discussion of Saka, see Ed Griffin-Nolan, Exerting Influence, The Syracuse New Times (June 25, 2014), available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zp264kc> (last checked 2/9/2017).

¹⁴ HSA Dayton's articles of incorporation available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ztq68n9> (last checked 2/9/2017); HSA Cincinnati's articles of incorporation available at: <http://tinyurl.com/judd99q> (last checked 2/9/2017).

¹⁵ For an article by Utegulov in The Fountain, see <http://tinyurl.com/h6sxueo> (last checked 2/9/2017).

¹⁶ For an article discussing Utegulov's membership, see <http://tinyurl.com/jqmdz7e> (last checked 2/9/2017).

¹⁷ <http://tinyurl.com/hxcdt88> (last checked 2/9/2017).

School	Operation	Student Demographic Information*	Authorizer	Governing Board
Lotus School for Excellence II	Denied 2009 due to inadequate parent support, governance issues, lack of success at LSE, and poor/incomplete budget.		Jefferson School District	Lotus School for Excellence, Inc.

*Data is for 2015-16 school year. "FRL" indicates students eligible for free/reduced lunch. No data available for English language learners or students with disabilities.

A History of Strategic Ambiguity and Conflicting Interests

Lotus Education Services, the predecessor entity to Lotus School for Excellence, Inc. ("Lotus"), was incorporated in 2003 by Bilal Temel, Tufan Hakan Batan, Timur Saka, Alptekin Kavi, and Serap B. Kavi. In 2005, the entity was renamed Lotus School for Excellence, Inc., and by 2006, the new Lotus governing board had received authorization from Aurora Public Schools to open their first charter school in Colorado, the Lotus School for Excellence-Aurora ("LSE").

Lotus Foundation. Later, these reports were filed by Yunus Avcu, a Turkish individual employed by Accord who later provided testimony regarding the Gülen Organization, Accord, Lotus, and the collection of improper *tuzuk* payments by Lotus's Turkish H-1B employees, discussed below in *Scandals & Investigations*. The Lotus Foundation board is historically constituted by individuals also serving on the Lotus board, such as Yapanel, Doyuran (Lotus Principal), Nurzhan Ustemirov, and others.¹⁸ In 2008, Lotus Foundation bought a

LSE has taken numerous loans from its Turkish governing board, which it then had to pay back with interest.

In 2005, the Lotus School for Excellence Foundation ("Lotus Foundation") was incorporated as a nonprofit in Colorado. In 2008, its articles were amended to state that its purpose was to support LSE, facilitate its operations, hold property in its name, or to promote charter education. Lotus board members Kavi and Yapanel filed the Lotus Foundation's annual reports initially, indicating overlap and intermingling between Lotus and the

building and began leasing it to LSE for an annual rent that they allege is at fair market value.

Lotus contracted with regional oversight entity Accord Institute for Education to provide LSE with teaching programs, math competitions, character education, assessment and data analyses, business and financial services, evaluations, and support services for a fee. Lotus board member

¹⁸ Board overlap is noted in the IRS 990 tax documentation for the Lotus School for Excellence, Inc., available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z7nrw2a> (last checked 2/9/2017).

and president of Lotus, Umit “Matt” Yapanel, was a paid employee for Accord while he served on the governing board of Lotus, a paying client of his employer. We would suggest, this constitutes a clear conflict of interest, a conflict that was further exploited as Yapanel contracted with his employer Accord for both of Lotus’s other charter school attempts, discussed below.

The Lotus board thereafter submitted a charter application to the Jefferson County School District to open Lotus School for Excellence (“LSE-II”) there in 2009. The District denied the application, citing lack of parental support, problematic governance structure that prevents parents from participating, lack of evidence supporting LSE-Aurora as successful, poor graduation rates at LSE-Aurora, and incomplete and poor budget planning. Lotus appealed the decision to deny to the State Board of Education, which upheld the District’s decision.

Yapanel later submitted an application to the

St. Vrain Valley School District to open a Lotus campus in Longmont in September of 2010. The District denied the charter application in December 2010, citing numerous issues with both the application, the design of the school, and the lack of evidence that LSE in Aurora was performing adequately to warrant replication. The St. Vrain Valley School Board also noted conflicts of interest—Lotus board members were allowed to sell their services to the school for profit, per the terms of Lotus policy, and that gift cards were given to families at open houses to increase support for the application. Lotus appealed the denial to the State Board of Education, which later upheld the District’s decision to deny. In Lotus’s briefing to the State Board, Lotus bragged that its ability to gain a \$5 million loan from Self Help Credit Union in its second year of operation indicated that the Aurora school was strong in spite of its numerous financial issues. However, their contact at Self Help that approved these loans for LSE is a Turkish woman who was educated at a known Gülenist university in Turkey.¹⁹

Financial Issues

Colorado requires its charter schools to undergo annual audits, which are made public. These audits showcase a series of ongoing financial issues at LSE that are endemic to other Gülen Organization charter networks. On the whole, these issues demonstrate a lack of financial controls, documentation, and transparency that we believe are critical to obscuring the true use of state and federal funds by Gülen Organization charter networks. While LSE does not engage in borrowing and loaning between itself and other schools, a practice seen in other more developed Gülen charter networks, LSE has taken numerous loans from its Turkish governing board members, which it then had to pay back with interest. LSE has also given out loans to related parties.

The numerous audit findings occur across multiple years, including:

- ▶ Overspending;
- ▶ Failure to post transactional records;
- ▶ Failure to use federal funds appropriately;
- ▶ Purchase of a facility prior securing charter renewal;
- ▶ Untimely financial reporting;
- ▶ Loans to related parties;
- ▶ Overpayment to related construction companies;
- ▶ Liabilities exceeding assets.²⁰

¹⁹ The Lotus reply briefing includes a letter of support from Ozlem Tanik, their Self Help contact, who according to LinkedIn (Ozlem Tanik Ponarin) attended Middle East Technical University.

²⁰ Audits available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z3wzapid> (last checked 2/9/2017).

Bond Financing

To date, there are no bond issuances for Lotus in Colorado. This is likely due to the Gülen

Organization's difficulty in expanding the number of Lotus charter schools in Colorado.

Real Estate

The Lotus Foundation bought the current LSE building in 2008 for \$6.2 million and began leasing it to LSE shortly thereafter. To finance the building purchase, the Lotus Foundation took out a loan from Self Help Credit Union for \$4.9 million. LSE and the Lotus Foundation secured the loan agreement with Ozlem Tanik at Self Help, a Turkish woman educated in a Gülenist university in Turkey. While the original mortgage was due in 2013, the Lotus Foundation refinanced the mortgage through 2018. The Lotus Foundation has a balloon payment of \$4 million due on the building loan in 2018 to Self Help Credit Union.²¹

Lease payments from LSE to the Lotus Foundation vary each year, and have ranged from \$350,000 to \$450,000. Why these lease payments vary from year to year so significantly is unknown.

How the Lotus Foundation and LSE will deal with the \$4 million balloon payment in 2018 will be interesting to observe. When the Chicago Math and Science Academy, part of the Midwestern region, approached a similar balloon payment, it sold its building at a loss to a related Gülenist landlord entity that proceeded to charge the school excessive rents in an 35-year non-cancelable lease.²²

Excessive use of the H-1B Visa Program

Like other Gülen Organization charter networks, Lotus utilizes the H-1B visa program to immigrate large numbers of Turkish Gülenists into the United States for employment in the schools. From 2001-2016, Lotus filed 54 H-1B visa applications for foreign workers.²³ While Gülen Organization charter networks typically state that these H-1Bs are only to fill shortage areas for math and science teachers, these applications were filed for such easily fillable positions as: English teachers, principals, accountants, auditors, and administrative service managers.

Lotus use the same immigration attorneys to file and process their H-1B applications as other known Gülen Organization charter networks, vendors, and cultural associations, indicating once again the existence of an overall network.

For example:

- ▶ Catherine Garcia: Lotus used Garcia, a California-based attorney, to file numerous H-1B applications. Garcia's other clients include:
 - ▷ Magnolia (CA)
 - ▷ Paragon (AZ)
 - ▷ Sonoran (AZ)²⁴
- ▶ Owais Qazi: Lotus used Qazi, a California-based attorney, to file numerous H-1B applications. Qazi's other clients include:
 - ▷ Magnolia (CA)
 - ▷ Accord (CA)
 - ▷ Westwood Production (CA)
 - ▷ Coral (NV)
 - ▷ Apex (CA)²⁵

²¹ See 2016 LSE Audit, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z3wzapd> (last checked 2/9/2017).

²² See the Illinois profile for more information.

²³ H-1B information available at: <http://tinyurl.com/h6b984w> (last checked 2/9/2017).

²⁴ Garcia profile listing H-1B clients, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/h4vxfkx> (last checked 1/31/2017).

²⁵ Qazi profile listing H-1B clients, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/juefgh8> (last checked 2/9/2017).



Scandals, Investigations, & Notable Activities

LSE got off to an extremely rocky start with its authorizer, Aurora Public Schools. LSE failed to obtain a certificate of occupancy prior to moving into its facility. As a result, the state closed the school, and the school was relocated. The District was also extremely concerned that Lotus board members gave \$174,000 in loans to the school due to its dire financial straits.²⁶ As a result, founder Alptekin Kavi was forced to resign from the Lotus board. The District noted issues with LSE's federal spending compliance, as well as its service to English Language Learners. When LSE purchased a facility before it had secured renewal for an additional charter term, the District agreed to renew them contingent on LSE meeting defined conditions, including that LSE meet heightened standards for financial transparency due to its ongoing misuse and overspending of school funds.²⁷ In 2010, due to additional overspending by LSE, the District

placed LSE on a monitored spending plan.²⁸

Yunus Avcu, formerly employed by Accord first in Arizona, and then in Colorado, provided testimony regarding Accord's true purpose and his work with Lotus. As an accountant employed by Accord, Avcu stated that he gathered *tuzuk* funds from each of Lotus's Turkish H-1B employees in cash each month and delivered them to Accord's headquarters in California. Despite what Accord alleges it provides in the manner of educational services, Avcu stated that Accord was more focused with arranging trips to Turkey for American dignitaries, ensuring that its Gülenist charter schools maintained Turkish leadership at the school level, and requiring that Turkish leadership to regularly hire H-1B Turkish teachers in order to keep the cash flow from these teachers' forced tithing through *tuzuk* payments high. As an H-1B visa recruit from Turkey,

²⁶ Aurora Public Schools board minutes 5/22/2007, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/gmsjseo> (last checked 2/9/2017).

²⁷ Aurora Public Schools board minutes 2/17/2009, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/gmsjseo> (last checked 2/9/2017).

²⁸ Id. 2/16/2010 minutes.

Avcu stated that he personally had to turn over as much as 40% of his salary to Accord, which he said went to fund Gülen himself.²⁹

Two American teachers, Heidi Anderson and Amanda Scott, sued Lotus School for Excellence and its principal at the time, Adnan Doyuran, in 2014 for illegal employment discrimination on the basis of national origin and for retaliation. Scott and Anderson noticed that the school's faculty comprised nearly half Turkish individuals on H-1B visas, and that these individuals were paid substantially more per year despite having less experience, less qualifications, and more parent complaints. When Scott and Anderson

saw a special on the Gülen movement on 60 Minutes that mentioned Accord, the school's vendor, they asked Principal Doyuran to address their questions regarding the school's ties with the Gülen movement. Doyuran put them on a mentorship plan, despite the teachers having exemplary evaluations for that year, and later terminated Anderson's employment when she asked whether the Turkish teachers were being paid more than American employees.³⁰ This account supports many of Avcu's statements about Lotus and Accord, and their preference for Turkish H-1B employees that they can overpay in order to deduct larger tithes from their salaries.

Notable Turkish Vendors

- Accord Institute for Education Research (Accord): Like other Western Gülen Organization charter networks, Lotus contracts with Accord for educational and operational services, including financial services, for an annual fee. Accord has the greatest overlap in ties with Magnolia (CA) as they are both headquartered in the same state, but Accord also provides services to Daisy/Sonoran (AZ)³¹, Coral (NV), Beehive (UT), and was listed as a partner for failed schools/regions, as well, including Pioneer (OR) and Mokapu STEM (HI). As discussed previously, Yapanel served as board

president of Lotus, a paying client of Accord, at the same time as he received a salary from Accord. Further, for each of Lotus's failed application attempts which Yapanel orchestrated, new agreements were signed with Accord for those schools as well.

- Apex Educational Services (Apex): Lotus has utilized Apex for IT services,³² and perhaps utilized Apex specifically for IT services paid for by the federal E-Rate grant program as Lotus has received E-Rate funding previously.³³ Magnolia (CA) also utilizes Apex for IT services

²⁹ Jason McGahan, Did a California Charter School Group Fund an Effort to Overthrow the Turkish Government? LA Weekly (Dec. 1, 2016), available at: <https://tinyurl.com/jxceqp7> (last checked 2/9/2017).

³⁰ See Scott v. Lotus School for Excellence, Case 1:14-cv-00231-RPM (D.C. Colo 2014).

³¹ SSA-B Club Catalog 2016/2017 Fall Semester, Sonoran Schools, available at <http://tinyurl.com/j34uhb3> (last checked 2/1/2017); Minutes of Meeting of Governing Board of Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy – Phoenix, Sonoran Schools (Mar. 3, 2016), available at <http://tinyurl.com/hprollg> (last checked 2/1/2017); Tim Steller, *Sr. Reporter: What does \$364k in Tax Money Buy These Charter Schools*, Arizona Daily Star (Oct. 22, 2010), available at <http://tinyurl.com/ht36ax6> (last checked 2/1/2017) (discussing payments of over \$350,000 to Accord from Daisy schools); Academic Competitions, Sonoran Schools, available at <http://tinyurl.com/z9ft448> (last checked 2/1/2017) (the Sonoran Schools' website shows use of Accord products); Tim Vanderpool, *Hidden Agenda?*, Tucson Weekly, (Dec. 31, 2009), available at <http://tinyurl.com/zgwkjak>; Magnolia Educational and Research Foundation, *Magnolia Science Academy – Santa Clara: Countywide Charter School Petition*, Santa Clara County Office of Education, at 17, available at <http://tinyurl.com/hwg8jj8> (last checked 2/1/2017). The Accord Education website even includes a promotional blurb from the CFO of "Sonoran Schools" with other Gülen schools. Accord Education, available at <http://tinyurl.com/gkpvlo> (last checked 2/1/2017).

³² See Lotus check register from 2012-2015 showing payments to Apex, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kjlrzmg> (last checked 3/22/2017).

³³ FY 2015 E-Rate funding report, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/h8ehy4q> (last checked 2/9/2017).

paid for through E-Rate, and Concept Schools (Midwest) is currently under federal investigation for allegedly defrauding the E-Rate program by using affiliated vendors with a system of kickbacks to Concept's management. Apex may also be an affiliated vendor with Daisy/Sonoran; a reporter found tax documentation linking Apex as an owned property/asset of Daisy and Sonoran, though this could not be independently verified.³⁴

- **Ramson Contractors:** Ramson is a Turkish-owned and operated construction vendor utilized by both Magnolia (CA) and Lotus (CO).³⁵ Like the Gülen Organization charter schools, Gülen Organization vendors also shuffle their employees around the networks. For example, Levent Elibal worked first for Ramson Contractors, then left to work as a director for Quality Builders of Midwest, the construction vendor that works primarily with Concept Schools in the Midwestern Gülen Organization region.³⁶ According to testimony provided by Yunus Avcu, former Accord

employee in Colorado, Accord required Lotus to use Ramson despite the fact it was based in California for construction so that Ramson could purposefully overcharge Lotus to skim money from the school. This statement can be substantiated from reviewing Lotus's spending—in 2007, Lotus's authorizer noted that Lotus overpaid its construction company—paying \$340,000 instead of the budgeted \$120,000.³⁷ Avcu also reported that Ramson utilized undocumented workers in the area from Tajikistan.

- **Promotion and Beyond:** This Turkish-owned company provides school uniforms and has the same registered agent, Hakan Kaya, as Ramson Contractors.³⁸ Lotus uses Promotion and Beyond for its school polo shirts,³⁹ as does Beehive (UT),⁴⁰ Coral (NV),⁴¹ and Paragon (AZ).⁴² According to Avcu, Lotus was also forced to use this company by Accord so that the company could purposefully overcharge Lotus to put more money into the Gülen Organization.

Gülenist Cultural Foundations

- **Multicultural Mosaic Foundation, Denver:** Connection: Two of Lotus's founders and board members,

Yapanel and Utegulov, belonged to the Multicultural Mosaic Foundation, an openly Gülenist cultural association.⁴³

³⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/kfl5oar> (last checked 1/25/2017).

³⁵ See payment to Ramson from Lotus for renovations, 2013, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/zzpbav6> (last checked 2/9/2017).

³⁶ See LinkedIn profile for Levent Elibal, available at <http://tinyurl.com/zu3r3nv> (last checked 11/23/2016).

³⁷ See Aurora board minutes from the May 22, 2007 meeting, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/gmsjseo> (last checked 2/15/2017).

³⁸ Agent information available at: <https://tinyurl.com/jupss5g> and <https://tinyurl.com/hm3l9ey> (last checked 2/9/2017).

³⁹ Checks to Promotion and Beyond are seen throughout Lotus's check registers, see e.g. December 2012, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hecpmbz> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴⁰ <http://tinyurl.com/jszcdq3> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴¹ <http://tinyurl.com/jtp85lc> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴² <http://tinyurl.com/zgjq5u5> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴³ For an article discussing Mosaic's position on Gülen and the recent coup attempt <http://tinyurl.com/hnbl942>

Individuals Caught in the Gülen Organization Web

- ▶ It is quite common for the charter networks within a region to shuffle their Turkish H-1B visa teachers and principals from school to school, as well as between education management vendors. This is just a small number of individuals with these overlapping ties throughout the region, which further demonstrates the region's interconnections.
- ▶ Varol Gurler: Principal Lotus Academy of Excellence (CO)⁴⁴; Principal Sonoran Science Academy-Phoenix (AZ)⁴⁵; Principal Magnolia Science Academy Santa Ana (CA)⁴⁶; Principal of Brooklyn Amity School (NY)⁴⁷; now various leadership positions at Magnolia (CA)⁴⁸.
- ▶ Adnan Doyuran: Momentum Middle School (Now Magnolia Science Academy San Diego) Principal (CA)⁴⁹; Lotus Academy of Excellence Principal (CO)⁵⁰; SSA-Tucson Principal (AZ); Sonoran Associate Superintendent (AZ)⁵¹.

Notable Articles regarding the Lotus Network

- ▶ McGahan, Jason. *Did a California Charter School Group Fund an Effort to Overthrow the Turkish Government?* LA Weekly. (1 December 2016). Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/jxceqp7> (26 January 2017).
- ▶ Engdahl, Todd. *Jeffco rejection of Lotus charter stands*. Chalkbeat. (10 February 2010). Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z3hluuw> (26 January 2017).
- ▶ Haarer, Ryan. *Colorado group defends Turkish cleric accused in coup*. KUSA. (18 July 2016). Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hnbl942> (26 January 2017).
- ▶ AP Centerpiece: *Officials complained for years about inspections*. The Associated Press. (10 August 2007). Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/jybfrjr> (26 January 2017).
- ▶ Camron, Victoria A.F. *Lotus appeals charters denial*. Longmont Times-Call. (19 January 2011). Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/gteuctl> (26 January 2017).
- ▶ AP Impact: *Fire inspector says school open despite violations*. The Associated Press. (15 June 2007). Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z9cdpnj> (26 January 2017).

⁴⁴ Gurler is listed as Lotus Principal in this directory published by the Colorado Department of Education, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hlw28pe> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴⁵ Gurler is still listed as site contact on the AZ Department of Education for SSA-Phoenix, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/jygdkoq> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴⁶ Listed as principal, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z5xv6ha> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴⁷ Gurler is listed as principal as of the 2013-14 school year, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/haq2sy3> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴⁸ Gurler is currently Magnolia COO according to his LinkedIn profile, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/j3pukmw> (last checked 2/9/2017); formerly Magnolia CAO as listed in this Magnolia 2010 newsletter, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zy75jt8> (last checked 2/9/2017).

⁴⁹ Pg 15 of Magnolia application, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hcfjhep> (last checked 1/31/2017).

⁵⁰ Aurora Public Schools listed Doyuran as Lotus Principal on page 8 of this directory, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/jmqtgu9> (last checked 2/9/17).

⁵¹ Doyuran's LinkedIn profile still lists him as a principal, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zcaomq7> (last checked 2/9/2017); but is listed as associate superintendent on Sonoran's central office webpage, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hxhyvod> (last checked 2/9/2017).

