



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Kristy Armstrong  
(720) 423-3877  
[karmstrong@dpsfoundation.org](mailto:karmstrong@dpsfoundation.org)

### **Denver Public Schools Foundation Achieve Gala raises \$975,000 to support DPS students and schools**

**DENVER, April 29, 2015** – [The Denver Public Schools Foundation](#) hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> annual Achieve Gala presented by UMB on Tuesday, April 21, generating \$975,000 to support Denver Public Schools (DPS) students and schools. Elaine Gantz Berman, former board member for DPS, DPS Foundation and the State Board of Education; Leanna Clark, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus; and Bain Farris, President and CEO of Saint Joseph Hospital, served as gala chairs.

Nearly 1,000 business and community leaders heard from DPS school leaders, several local officials including Gov. John Hickenlooper, Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Lt. Gov. Joseph Garcia, and many talented and inspiring students throughout the evening. The event celebrates the tremendous impact community support has on Denver’s public school system, and it calls upon the community to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with educators to help every child in DPS succeed.

The evening featured many talented DPS students. The keynote address was delivered by Raymond Pryor, a senior at East High School who will attend Duke University in the fall on a full scholarship. “My dream is to have an impact in public education. Whether it’s as a teacher, counselor, policymaker, or social entrepreneur, I want to invest in the next generation of DPS students,” Ray said during his keynote speech. “I am so grateful for the investments that have been made in me. I will return them by giving back to my community and by becoming an investor in our next generation of students. That’s why I dream of a career in education.”

“It is students like you, Ray, who remind all of us of why our commitment to supporting DPS teachers and the district’s mission of Every Child Succeeds is so important. You are a shining example of that, and you are so inspiring,” said Kristin Heath Colon, President and CEO of the Denver Public Schools Foundation. “Every single gift has the power to impact one student’s life. And every student has the profound capacity to go on to do great things, and to make our community, our nation, our world better for the next generation.”

For the first year ever, the Achieve Gala was emceed by DPS students – Noah Anderson and Christina Pittaluga, both seniors at the Denver School of the Arts. The evening also featured inspiring performances from students from schools across the city, including Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy, the Denver School of the Arts, Hamilton Middle School and North High School.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor UMB, the Achieve Gala was made possible by generous community investments from corporations and individuals. Leadership sponsors included Reception Sponsor IMA Financial Group; Student Speaker

Sponsor United Launch Alliance; and Valedictorian Sponsors, including: The Anschutz Foundation, Marcy & Bruce Benson, Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, Kristin & Blair Richardson, and Cille & Ron Williams. Additional exclusive-level sponsorships included: BBVA Compass, FirstBank, Polsinelli, Saint Joseph Hospital and United Airlines.

View photos from the event, a full list of sponsors and information about the DPS Foundation at [www.dpsfoundation.org](http://www.dpsfoundation.org).

### **About the Denver Public Schools Foundation**

The single most pressing and critical priority for our nation is to provide a quality education for every child. Our future depends upon it. The Denver Public Schools Foundation is Denver Public Schools' fundraising partner. We generate resources, build relationships and champion public education to impact system-wide achievement and help every child succeed. Through strategic program investments and community leadership, we support Denver Public Schools in creating a district where outstanding educational achievements are the norm and all children have an opportunity for a great future. For more information, visit [www.dpsfoundation.org](http://www.dpsfoundation.org).

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