



NEWS RELEASE

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UNITED LAUNCH ALLIANCE DONATES BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO DPS STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

DENVER, August 14, 2013 – United Launch Alliance has once again provided backpacks and school supplies for low-income and homeless children in DPS. Employees leveraged resources and time to collect and assemble backpacks filled with supplies for DPS students as they begin the 2013-14 school year. To celebrate and culminate the supply drive, ULA employees will deliver backpacks by motorcycle and convertible to the Mitchell Administration Building at 1350 E. 33rd on Friday, August 16th at 10:00 a.m.

“United Launch Alliance is proud to support Denver Public Schools in a number of meaningful ways,” said Chris Chavez, who leads ULA’s corporate citizenship efforts. “ULA provides funding for science and math education programs, as well as volunteer support and employee donations like this backpack drive. Both are key ingredients to multi-faceted and long-term engagement that help kids succeed.” ULA has invested in *Science Tracks* since 2007, a DPS elementary school curriculum that has increased fifth grade science proficiency scores 11 percentage points since its implementation.

Minority Enterprise & Educational Development (MEED) facilitated the ULA school supply drive. For the last decade, MEED has collected backpacks and school supplies for DPS students in need. The backpacks are distributed through the Educational Outreach Program office, which supports the 2,000 DPS students and families experiencing homelessness. Support from the community through the Educational Outreach Program office allows DPS to provide school supplies and other basic needs for students facing the challenge and uncertainty of homelessness. Support for these students has been shown to impact their attendance and performance in the classroom.

“It’s quite simple – when a student does not have the tools they need to succeed in the classroom, they are starting the new school year already at a disadvantage to their peers,” said DPS Educational Outreach Program’s Jackie Bell. “This is about more than just school supplies. It’s about giving kids resources that enable them to focus their energy and attention on the lessons that lie ahead of them this school year. Without generous donors like United Launch Alliance, these children would already be a step behind in the classroom. We’re so grateful for partnerships like this one.”

WHAT: United Launch Alliance Motorcycle Backpack Drive

WHO: United Launch Alliance employees, MEED leadership, DPS administrators

WHERE: Mitchell Administration Building
1350 E. 33rd Street
Denver, CO

WHEN: **Friday, Aug. 16 at 10 a.m.**