



NEWS RELEASE

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Denver Public Schools Foundation Achieve Gala raises more than \$900,000 to support students and schools

DENVER, MAY 6, 2013 – [The Denver Public Schools \(DPS\) Foundation](#) hosted its 11th annual Achieve Gala presented by UMB on Thursday, April 25, generating more than \$900,000 to support DPS students and schools.

More than 1,100 business and community leaders heard from DPS school leaders, Governor Hickenlooper and several talented and inspiring students throughout the evening. The event celebrates the tremendous impact community support has on Denver's public school system, and calls upon the community to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with educators to help every child in DPS succeed.

"The DPS Foundation plays a critical role in supporting students in so many ways," says Superintendent Tom Boasberg. "They allow us to sustain and expand academic programs with proven impact on student achievement; they fund innovation and technology in our schools; they keep our kids safe after school and in the summer. The list goes on and on. The generosity of the community at the Achieve Gala – and throughout the year – plays a critical role in the success and momentum of our entire school system."

The evening featured many talented and inspiring DPS students. The keynote address was delivered by Elicia Dennis, a senior at George Washington High School who spoke poignantly of how her education in DPS will provide a bright future for her – despite difficult beginnings. She'll be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall on full scholarship, studying physics and electrical engineering.

"When you hear a story of perseverance like Elicia's, you're struck with the knowledge that there is no greater obligation as members of this community than to help our children succeed," says Kristin Heath Colon, President and CEO of the Denver Public Schools Foundation. "The Achieve Gala is an annual opportunity to be reminded that when we talk about education, we're really talking about children. It's an opportunity to reflect on the impact of your support – on the lives your generosity will change. We are so grateful to every person who supports the work of the DPS Foundation."

The evening also featured five talented representatives from the Student Board of Education sharing their hopes for the future – Brenda Herrera, Caitlin Monaghan, Jordan Thomas, Chris Urias and Kaleah Williams. Entertainment was provided by the Denver School of the Arts Sinfonia, Montbello High School Drum Line, Noel Community Arts School Advanced Dance Group and Polaris at Ebert Honor Choir.

Dick & Britney Weil and Margot & Marc Pinto served as chairs for the 2013 Achieve Gala.

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For the seventh consecutive year, UMB was presenting sponsor of the evening. Valedictorian sponsors include The Anschutz Foundation, Marcy & Bruce Benson, Comcast, Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, Margot & Marc Pinto, The Piton Foundation, Kristin & Blair Richardson, United Launch Alliance, Britney & Dick Weil and Cille & Ron Williams. Janus sponsored the Achieve Gala Reception, and DaVita, Inc. underwrote the production of unique student-made centerpieces for the event. The featured performers were presented by Elaine Gantz Berman & Stephen Berman, FirstBank, Hogan Lovells and Martha Records and Rich Rainaldi.

View photos from the event, a full list of sponsors and information about the DPS Foundation at www.dpsfoundation.org.

About the Denver Public Schools Foundation

The DPS Foundation raises and manages funds in support of various programs that drive student achievement for Denver's 84,000 students. 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 of a great future. For more information, visit www.dpsfoundation.org.

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