



January 13, 2016

Donation to Bring SmartLabs to 6 Denver Schools

Marco Campos Funds SmartLab at Samuels Elementary + Half the Cost of 6 Additional SmartLabs at Elementary and Middle Schools

Denver – Denver Public Schools and the DPS Foundation celebrates a donation given by Marco Campos, a former DPS student, to fund six new SmartLabs. Campos, founder and managing principal of Campos EPC, has fully funded a SmartLab at Samuels Elementary in southeast Denver, and he recently committed to an additional \$457,500 to help bring SmartLabs to six additional DPS elementary and middle schools. The donation, via [the DPS Foundation](#), covers half of the cost of the six SmartLabs. By 2017, Campos will have donated more than 650,000 to fund the SmartLab at Samuels Elementary and the six additional labs. Campos, founder and managing principal of Campos EPC said “We’re excited to be able to introduce students, especially women and minorities to the STEM environment.” It is great to help cultivate the “local talent in our backyard, encouraging students that we could later on employ.”



Marco Campos at the Ribbon Cutting Event



Susana Cordova visits a SmartLab Student

Susana Cordova, DPS Acting Superintendent was also in attendance. She stated that “this is really a testament to public and private partnership... being invested in making STEM education a reality for so many young students in DPS” will open students’ eyes to the many more opportunities available.

A SmartLab is a 21st century learning lab. It’s a project-based, student-centered curriculum supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and other core academic content. In addition to Samuels Elementary, two other DPS schools have SmartLabs. The six new SmartLabs

will be placed at three elementary and three middle schools over the next two years.

On Wednesday, January 13 a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Campos EPC SmartLab at Samuels Elementary was held to celebrate the school's new SmartLab and the announcement of six additional SmartLabs in DPS. Erin Trapanese, Samuels Elementary Principal said, it is good to "start students very young and introduce them to experiences that they might not have known even exist."

Following the ceremony, there was a tour of the SmartLab where students were able to show the various projects that they're currently working on. Several fifth grade students mentioned that they're favorite part of SmartLab is that they now know how to read and write code, an impressive accomplishment that would not be possible without the curriculum provided by the SmartLab learning lab.



SmartLab classroom students collaborate on a project

Want to learn more?

[Check out](#) the 9News video report as well as the DPS Features video [here](#).