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3 Additional DPS Schools to Receive SmartLabs in Fall 2016

Marco Campos Donation Helps Fund Cost of SmartLabs at Elementary and Middle Schools

Denver – Thanks to a commitment made by a former Denver Public Schools (DPS) student to fund half the cost of six additional [SmartLabs](#), DPS and the DPS Foundation announced the locations of three of the SmartLabs to be placed at schools this fall. Following a competitive school application process, Sabin World Elementary, Beach Court Elementary and Bill Roberts ECE-8 School were chosen to receive SmartLabs this fall. Campos, founder and managing principal of Campos EPC, fully funded a SmartLab at Samuels Elementary in southeast Denver earlier this school year, and it was announced last month that he 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, with the other half being matched by DPS and the DPS Foundation.



Classmates learn new SmartLab skills

A SmartLab is a 21st century learning lab and is part of DPS' commitment to provide students and schools with rigorous STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) curriculum. SmartLabs include project-based, student-centered curriculum supporting STEM and other core academic content. In addition to Samuels Elementary, two other DPS schools currently have SmartLabs – Slavens ECE-8 School and Merrill Middle School. In addition to the three SmartLabs being placed at Sabin, Beach Court and Bill Roberts in the fall, three additional schools are slated to receive SmartLabs in fall 2017, including the Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS) and two other middle schools to be determined via a competitive school application process. Schools receiving SmartLabs feed into high schools that offer STEM curriculum, creating a pipeline for students to have access to STEM education in all grades.



Students collaborate on SmartLab project

By 2017, Campos will have donated more than \$650,000 to fund the SmartLab at Samuels Elementary and the six additional labs. During a ribbon cutting last month to celebrate the Samuels

SmartLab, Campos 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.”



“This is an example of a strong public and private partnership,” said Susana Cordova, DPS Acting Superintendent. “It’s a joint investment in making STEM education a reality for so many young students in DPS. The SmartLabs will open students’ eyes to the many opportunities available to them.”

More on the Campos SmartLabs investment: [9News video report](#) | [DPS Features video report](#)

Susana Cordova visits with SmartLab Teacher