



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wells Fargo Grant Funds “Lights On Afterschool” Program at 18 DPS Schools**  
Colorado Rockies Player Pat Valaika Joins Program Celebration at McMeen Elementary

**DENVER**– On Thursday, August 31, Colorado Rockies infielder Pat Valaika, along with Wells Fargo Senior Branch Manager Zach Dehart, Vice President of Community Relations Kelly Donovan and Community Affairs Officer Katie Rollyson, will join McMeen Elementary students during McMeen’s “Lights On Afterschool” program. The visit is part of a celebration that marks a Wells Fargo grant investment to support afterschool programming at 18 high-need elementary schools in Denver Public Schools, and will serve more than 3,500 students.

Dehart, Donovan and Rollyson will greet McMeen students, as Valaika signs autographs for them. The group will present a \$150,000 check to the DPS Foundation and DPS Board of Education member Mike Johnson.

The benefits of afterschool programming are well-documented, particularly for vulnerable students. Afterschool programming provides students with a safe place to be after the school day ends. Afterschool programming also provides academic supports, from homework help, to fun activities that reinforce students’ learning. In fact, in DPS evaluations of afterschool programs, nine out of 10 students said their program had an adult that listened and cared about them. Additionally, two out of three students said their program helped them to achieve more and try harder at school.

“We are grateful to our longtime partner Wells Fargo for this incredible investment in our students. Because of their support, 3,500 DPS students will be able to participate in the ‘Lights On Afterschool’ program in 2017-18. That’s an investment in those students’ well-being and future,” said DPS Foundation President and CEO Verónica Figoli.

“Wells Fargo is pleased to support the ‘Lights On Afterschool’ program in DPS. We know that when our students thrive, our communities thrive,” said Wells Fargo Vice President of Community Relations Kelly Donovan.

Media are invited to join the celebration Thursday, August 31, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Event Location:

McMeen Elementary School  
1000 S. Holly St.  
Denver, 80246

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**About the Denver Public Schools Foundation**

The Denver Public Schools Foundation is Denver Public Schools' fundraising partner, generating resources, building relationships and championing public education to impact system-wide achievement in order to realize the vision of *Every Child Succeeds*. The DPS Foundation engages the entire community in support of DPS' more than 92,000 students and nearly 200 schools. Learn more at [www.dpsfoundation.org](http://www.dpsfoundation.org).

**About Wells Fargo**

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