



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2013

Michelle Ciccone
Phalen Leadership Academies
mciccone@phalenacademies.org

School Honors NFL Player Marlin Jackson and Revitalizes Neighborhood

August 15, 2013 is a historic day for Indianapolis and Meridian Highland residents. It will be one of the few days in the past two decades that a \$6 million construction project will be completed in the Meridian Highland area. Super Bowl Champion and former Colts player, Marlin Jackson will be in attendance.

After investing \$6 million dollars in construction, the George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academy, located at 2323 N. Illinois Street, will open a new school creating jobs and serving hundreds of families in the Meridian Highland Neighborhood.

The ribbon cutting for the historic investment will be August 15th at 2:00pm. Former Indianapolis Colts player Marlin Jackson will be honored with the Indiana Heroes Award for his community service and leadership. Jackson is the Founder of the Fight for Life Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on empowering children through education and wellness programs. In 2007, Jackson was a member of the Colts Super Bowl Championship team.

Principal Jeremy Baugh notes, "I'm excited that a Super Bowl Champion will be in attendance on this historic day for the City of Indianapolis. Mr. Jackson represents hope, leadership, and perseverance."

Founded by President Obama's classmate and national education reformer, Earl Martin Phalen, the Phalen Leadership Academies was authorized by the Indiana Charter School Board to open 10 schools and serve 10,000 children. The expansion will be based on funding, development, and the success of the first Academy.

The Phalen Leadership Academies network is supported by The Mind Trust's Charter School Incubator. "The selection process for the inaugural Charter School Incubator award was incredibly competitive, and we were honored to select Phalen Leadership Academies for a \$1 million prize," said David Harris, Founder and CEO of The Mind Trust. "The schools' team impressed us tremendously with their collective skills and passion, and we're excited to be able to support the growth and development of this great school network." The Phalen Leadership Academies has also received support from other leading funders in the charter school space, including the Charter School Growth Fund.

The Phalen Leadership Academy invites the community to participate in the August 15th ribbon cutting event. As one Meridian Highland resident noted, "We are so grateful for everything the school is doing for the area."



#



Building on the scientifically validated model and successful track record of Summer Advantage USA, the Phalen Leadership Academy (PLA) will work to ensure all scholars meet high academic and social standards, and thrive as leaders at home, in their communities and in the world.