

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Summer Advantage Team Approved to Launch 10 Blended Learning Charter Schools in Indiana

Indianapolis, IN - The Indiana Charter School Board in an unanimous vote [approved](#) the Summer Advantage team, led by Founder Earl Martin Phalen, to launch 10 charter schools in Indiana. The first school in the network will launch in Indianapolis fall 2013.

Mr. Phalen, who was born into the foster care system, adopted into a loving family at age 2 and went on to attend Yale and Harvard universities, named the schools after his parents. The George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academies (PLA) will incorporate many of the elements that have made Summer Advantage successful, including involving parents, closely tracking student and teacher performance and engaging students in experiences such as art, music and college visits.

"We are so excited to have the opportunity to continue to positively impact the lives of children," Mr. Phalen said. "We love our students and treat them like they're our children, and that means we're going to do anything to ensure their success."

The mission of the Leadership Academies is to ensure all scholars meet high academic and social standards, and thrive as leaders at home, in their communities, and in the world. The Academies will incorporate evidence-based practices that have been found to improve academic achievement, including highly effective teachers and leaders; a scientifically validated model of parental engagement; longer year (200 days); longer school day (8 hours); evidence-based summer learning (25 additional days); and individualized instruction through "blended learning" which will utilize cutting-edge online learning tools and other innovative techniques so that teachers can focus on helping each student succeed.

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 63% of all new job openings through 2018 will require college education. Yet only 38% of Americans currently hold college degrees (Lumina Foundation for Education).

"Poverty, joblessness, violence will never be addressed by one organization," Mr. Phalen said. But the network approach of Summer Advantage and the Leadership Academies is determined to address the challenges. "The notion that a child's family income is correlated to their intelligence and their ability to perform is one we don't accept." PLA believes that all children have the innate potential to succeed in school and in life.

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