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Summer Advantage & Summit 54 Partnership Recognized as “Bright Spot” in Education by White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics announced on Tuesday that Summit 54 would receive the *Bright Spots in Education* award for its exceptional contribution to supporting the achievement of Hispanic children through its sponsorship of Summer Advantage USA. The award recognizes evidence-based programs, models, organizations, or initiatives that target key education priorities for Hispanics and that are helping to close the achievement gap.

Summer Advantage USA is a nonprofit organization that provides one of the very few scientifically-proven summer learning program models in the country. Each summer, participating children gain over one month of reading and math skills and return to school in the fall excited about learning. Recognized by TIME, Parents Magazine, MSNBC, and more, Summer Advantage has engaged over 15,000 students in high-quality summer learning over the past six years.

Summit 54 is the leading partner and supporter of Summer Advantage in Colorado, where the program serves 750 children from the Roaring Fork School District, over 80% of whom are Hispanic. After three years of partnership with Summer Advantage, the district saw its state test results improve to the highest mark ever in a six-year period, and its students began outperforming the state proficiency average.

“We have been very pleased to collaborate closely with Summer Advantage to help the children of the Roaring Fork School District further their potential,” said Terri Caine, Co-Founder and Trustee at Summit 54. “We’ve witnessed outstanding growth for the program’s scholars and we are grateful for this initiative’s recognition of our children.”

“We are tremendously grateful for this recognition of the achievements our Hispanic scholars have made in Summer Advantage,” said Earl Martin Phalen, Founder and CEO of Summer Advantage USA. “As Hispanic families represent a growing segment of our nation and our education system, it is increasingly critical that we ensure their children have access to the high-quality educational programs they need to thrive.”

The impact of Summer Advantage, Summit 54, and other Bright Spots awardees will be featured in the Initiative’s first-ever *National Bright Spots in Hispanic Education National Online Catalogue*. To view the catalogue, visit: www.ed.gov/hispanicinitiative.

For more information regarding the Summer Advantage program, visit www.summeradvantage.org or contact Founder and CEO Earl Martin Phalen at emphalen@summeradvantage.org or 617-818-1959. For more information on Summit 54, visit www.summit54.org.

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