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**KIPP SAN ANTONIO ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR TWO NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

*George W. Brackenridge Foundation Awards \$2.5M Grant*

San Antonio, TX – The George W. Brackenridge Foundation announced today a \$2.5M grant award to KIPP San Antonio, a growing network of high-performing public schools inside Loop 410. The five-year grant will support current operations and the establishment of two new KIPP San Antonio elementary schools.

“There are few things in life more transformative than a great public education,” said Mark Larson, CEO of KIPP San Antonio. “The Brackenridge Foundation’s deep investment in our new schools will enable our youngest students to leapfrog the achievement gap and bound for great heights.”

KIPP San Antonio is part of the national KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) network of 99 public charter schools serving over 26,000 students across the U.S. KIPP San Antonio currently operates two middle schools and one high school with two new elementary schools on the horizon. At full growth, KIPP San Antonio will be preparing 2,800 students for success in college and life.

The George W. Brackenridge Foundation, established by the same benefactor who gave the city Brackenridge Park, has been providing funding for the education of San Antonio students for almost ninety years. The 2.5 million KIPP grant is the largest grant in the foundation’s history.

“We decided to make a big investment in KIPP because in addition to providing a life-altering education for its students, it has the potential to change the larger education landscape,” says Victoria Rico, Chairman of the Brackenridge Foundation. “It is showing all of us what can be achieved with more school hours, empowered teachers and principals, and close relationships between faculty and families. These elements could be part of the solution to the nationwide education crisis.”

Before school starts in the fall, KIPP teachers visit each student’s family home, and together they sign a mutual commitment to high expectations, hard work and strong communication. KIPP students attend school from 7:30-5:00 each weekday, two Saturdays per month and a brief summer session. Strong study habits are reinforced through rigorous daily homework and by teachers who are “on-call” via cell phone for homework help in the evenings and weekend. “Our teachers respond immediately if a student is struggling, and they inspire a school-wide culture where grit, teamwork and integrity create success,” said Mr. Larson.

“We believe this grant to KIPP is very much in line with Brackenridge's vision,” says Mrs. Rico. “He was a banker and a businessman, the type who understood numbers and valued results. So the foundation looks for educational programs with proven metrics, especially over a long term. And

KIPP San Antonio delivers some of the best results we've ever seen. It admits students who are, on average, two grades behind where they should be and turns them into the best scoring kids in Bexar County. Academically, it's a powerhouse. On top of that, the KIPP program has this wonderful culture. It builds character--honesty, a sense of responsibility to one's community, courtesy, kindness. You can see these qualities in KIPP students. A seventh-grade KIPPster explained to me that a student would receive a bad mark on her report card if, for example, she just walked by another student who had dropped her books without stopping to help. Brackenridge would have liked that. He did a lot of stopping to help in his life, and he even mentioned the goal of moral advancement in his will. KIPP's motto, 'Work hard, be nice,' could well have been Brackenridge's."

#### Demographics

- 725 students enrolled
- 98% minority
- 80% economically disadvantaged
- Majority will be first in their family to graduate college

#### Student Achievement

- KIPP Aspire Academy MS named a "Texas School to Watch" and an "Exemplar" by the Texas Center for Student Success
- KIPP Camino Academy MS opened fall 2010 in the former Sunshine Cottage building with 107 students and high marks on its first-year inspection
- KIPP University Prep HS earned "Exemplary" rating in its first year of operations and ranks among the top high schools in San Antonio
- KIPP San Antonio selected as finalist in Small District Category by the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards

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Representatives from KIPP San Antonio and the Brackenridge Foundation are available for interview. Call Donna Parker at 210-545-7677.

Please visit our websites for more information:

- [www.kippsa.org](http://www.kippsa.org)
- [www.brackenridgefoundation.org](http://www.brackenridgefoundation.org)

#### **ABOUT KIPP SAN ANTONIO**

KIPP San Antonio is a high-performing network of free public schools (grades 5th – 11th) preparing students for success in school, college and life. There is no test for admission and no tuition. Each KIPP San Antonio school is unique, but all share the same KIPP standards: more instructional time, high expectations, a safe learning environment, outstanding teachers and the power to lead and innovate. Our high school and two middle schools target underserved students in inner San Antonio. KIPP San Antonio is currently recruiting students for grades 5th and 9th and seeking prospective elementary school leaders and teachers (5th-11th) for our growing network of schools. Please visit [www.kippsa.org](http://www.kippsa.org) for more info.

#### **ABOUT THE BRACKENRIDGE FOUNDATION**

The George W. Brackenridge Foundation provides grant money to non-profits for educational purposes such as scholarships, educational programs or general operating costs for educational institutions. The organization was founded following the death of Mr. Brackenridge in 1920.