

**For Immediate Release**  
June 3, 2011

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**FOUNDING CLASS OF KIPP STUDENTS COMMIT TO COLLEGE**  
**Commitment Ceremony for Class of 2011 at Trinity**

**San Antonio, TX** – KIPP San Antonio, part of a national network of KIPP public charter schools across the U.S., is proud to announce the high school graduation of its founding class of students. **Eighty-six percent of KIPP San Antonio’s first class to complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade at KIPP is headed to college, more than double the local average.**

“I am so proud of this first class of graduating seniors, who have worked incredibly hard to reach this important milestone in their education,” said KIPP San Antonio CEO Mark Larson. “KIPP San Antonio is proving that high expectations from caring, committed teachers and a strong partnership between schools and families can lead to outstanding academic results for all students.”

86% percent of the 56 students from KIPP’s eighth grade have been accepted to two- or four-year colleges, with a majority the first in their family to attend college. Some of the colleges they will be attending include American University, Baylor, Bowdoin, Claremont McKenna, Dartmouth, Northwestern, St. Mary’s, Texas State University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Trinity, Vassar College and many of our local and state colleges and universities.

Nationally, more than 80 percent of the students who have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade at KIPP schools have matriculated to college.

Eight years ago, Mark Larson, the founder of KIPP Aspire Academy, made a promise to then 4<sup>th</sup> grader Jesus Aleman and his mother that he would get Jesus to college. Jesus spoke no English. Four years later as an eighth grader, Jesus earned commended scores in Reading and Math. Because KIPP did not have a high school in San Antonio at that time, Jesus earned a full scholarship to St. Mary’s Hall. His freshman year, he started a math tutoring group. Jesus eventually became a leader on the robotics, soccer and football teams. He was accepted into Boston College, Boston University and other universities, and decided to attend St. Mary’s University this fall on a full scholarship.

“KIPP gave me the motivation and encouragement I needed to really get excited about going to college,” said Jesus Aleman. “KIPP also taught me the importance of working as a team and how each and every one of us can be leaders in our communities.”

KIPP San Antonio schools were founded in 2003 and serve an estimated 700 students in grades five through ten. 98 percent of KIPP San Antonio’s students are minority, mostly Latino, and 80 percent qualify for free or reduced price meals. KIPP San Antonio takes a rigorous, “no excuses” approach to education. In addition to a mandatory summer session, students attend school from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the week. KIPP students complete up to two hours of homework a night, and KIPP teachers are available on cell phone after hours for help and to answer questions from parents.

“I congratulate the founding KIPP Class of 2011,” said Richard Barth, CEO of the KIPP Foundation. “KIPP San Antonio continues to set a track record of success, achieve excellent results and redefine what is possible in public education, both in the city of San Antonio and for cities nationwide.”

**About KIPP San Antonio**

KIPP San Antonio is a network of college preparatory public schools serving students inside Loop 410. KIPP's schools have received "Exemplar" recognitions from the Texas High School Project and the Texas Center for Student Success (UT-Austin), as well as finalist status from the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. For more information, please visit [www.kippsa.org](http://www.kippsa.org).