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THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS RECOGNIZES LOCAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION SUMMIT 54

ASPEN, CO— Summit 54 was recognized as a “Bright Spot in Hispanic Education” by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Summit 54 is listed among other notable non-profits across the country that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the educational attainment of Hispanics.

The announcement was made by Alejandra Ceja, Executive Director of the Initiative on September 15, 2015 at the launch of Hispanic Heritage Month and in honor of the Initiative’s 25th anniversary in Washington, D.C. As a Bright Spot, Summit 54, is part of a national online catalog that includes over 230 programs that invest in key education priorities for Hispanics.

“There has been notable progress in Hispanic educational achievement, and it is due to the efforts of these Bright Spots in Hispanic Education, programs and organizations working throughout the country to help Hispanic students reach their full potential,” said Alejandra Ceja.

The Initiative was established in 1990 to address the educational disparities faced by the Hispanic community. To learn more about the Initiative and to view the “Bright Spots in Hispanic Education” national online catalog visit www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative. The catalog features over 230 programs, models, organizations and initiatives that are supporting and investing in the educational attainment of Hispanics, from cradle-to-career.

Summit 54 was recognized for its work with Summer Advantage USA, a nationally acclaimed, summer academic and life enrichment program aimed at preventing summer learning loss and improving academic and life success. Research shows that summer learning loss’ attributes to 66% of the achievement gap in America. The free five-week Summer Advantage program includes rigorous academics, two daily enrichment classes, two daily nutritious meals, bus transportation, and weekly inspirational speakers and field trips. Over 70% of the RFV students participating in the Summer Advantage program receive Title One free and reduced lunch and 80.5% of the participants are Hispanic. The

Summit 54 sponsored, Summer Advantage program, completed its 4th year in the Roaring Fork Valley. During the four years, the program has grown from 400 scholars to 725 K-4th grade students in Basalt, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs. Summer Advantage is privately funded in the Roaring Fork Valley by Summit 54, in cooperation with the RE-1 School District and Mile High United Way.

“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 Hispanic scholars and we are grateful for this initiative’s recognition of our children.”

For more information on Summit 54 or Summer Advantage Roaring Fork contact Nicole Tarumianz at 970.618.0997 or nicole@summit54.org or visit www.summit54.org.

About Summit 54: Summit 54 is a local education foundation founded by Roaring Fork Valley residents Tony and Terri Caine. Summit 54 is committed to improving Colorado's economy and society through effective, efficient and accountable investments in education. Summit 54 partners with local schools, administrators and community organizations to help identify programs that deliver high impact results with a strong return on investment. “Our end goal at Summit 54 is to better our participants’ futures – ultimately leading to a more highly skilled workforce, less poverty and stronger, more dynamic communities in Colorado,” explained founder Tony Caine.

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