



Summer Advantage USA
407 North Fulton Street, Suite 102
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
www.summeradvantage.org

INDIANAPOLIS SUMMER ADVANTAGE SCHOLARS GET A 'MAYOR' THRILL

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – July 17, 2009 – For children participating in Summer Advantage USA's summer learning program, today will be remembered for more than fractions, adverbs, or even a field trip. Instead, it will be the day they met the man who holds the keys to the city. Mayor Gregory Ballard spent the morning with the scholars during their daily "community time," discussing the importance of education, leadership and community service. The children also had the opportunity to ask questions of the mayor, including the successful solicitation of a donation towards their community service project, "Give Riley Kids a Summer Advantage Too!"

"Summer Advantage USA is more than summer school or summer camp," explained Earl Martin Phalen, founding CEO of Summer Advantage USA. "It is a comprehensive academic and enrichment program that shapes children into educated, driven leaders. An important part of this goal is introducing them to leaders in their own communities, such as Mayor Ballard. We're delighted to have him support our program and our scholars."

A typical day for the Summer Advantage USA scholars includes a morning of scientifically validated math and language arts instruction, followed by an afternoon of enrichment activities that include debate and dance. By participating in this dynamic program, children overcome the common two-month "learning loss" associated with summer break and instead gain a cumulative five-month increase in key academic skills.

"As a community, we have to set high standards for our youth. Their individual successes - and ultimately, our success as a city - depend upon our making their education a top priority," Mayor Ballard said. "We simply cannot continue to grow or prosper as a community unless we encourage our youth to achieve excellence and give them the tools for attaining it."

Nakia Douglass, Program Manager of Summer Advantage USA's Tindley site and Vice Principal of Tindley during the academic year added, "It was a tremendous opportunity for the scholars to meet the mayor. Moments like these will inspire them to become leaders of their communities – a core value of Summer Advantage USA and the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School experience."

Summer Advantage USA is a national non-profit organization providing elementary and middle school students living in under-resourced communities with research-based summer learning programs focused on academic gains. Summer Advantage offers summer learning programs encompassing literacy, mathematics, science and extracurricular enrichment. It offers a replicable "locally-owned" model and strives to institutionalize that model by impacting public policy. Summer Advantage USA was launched in January 2009 with support from The Mind Trust. In its inaugural summer, Summer Advantage is educating 1,000 children in Decatur Township and Indianapolis, Indiana.