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## DC PREP, NORMAN AND RUTH RALES FOUNDATION DEDICATE ANACOSTIA ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

*Keynote Remarks by John King, former United States Secretary of Education*

WASHINGTON, DC - October 31, 2017 - Today, leaders from DC Prep, The Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation (Rales Foundation), and broader Ward 8 community gather to formally dedicate the Anacostia Elementary: Ruth & Norman Rales Campus. Joined by keynote speaker John King, President and CEO of The Education Trust and former United States Secretary of Education in the Obama Administration, the dedication event honors the generous support of visionary philanthropists as well as community and civic leaders.

“On behalf of DC Prep’s Board and Advisory Board, I am thrilled to formally dedicate the Anacostia Elementary: Ruth & Norman Rales Campus,” said Emily Lawson, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of DC Prep. “The generous support and partnership of Josh Rales and the Rales Foundation will enable us to deliver a high-quality public education to hundreds of students and families in the greater Ward 8 community for many years to come.”

The dedication caps off a \$26.2M purchase and extensive renovation of what was formerly Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a 100-year-old historic landmark in the community. Re-opened at the start of the current 2017-18 school year, the site is now home to over 46,000 square feet of state-of-the-art learning space for the 450 students who will attend preschool-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, once at scale.

“My parents, Ruth and Norman, loved children,” said Josh Rales, President of the Rales Foundation. “It was their dream that all children have the opportunity to thrive through the experience of a world-class education. DC Prep has distinguished itself within our city by consistently fostering academic excellence and a drive to succeed among all students it serves, regardless of the circumstances or challenges they face. We are pleased to support the growth of DC Prep through a beautiful new space, and proud that this campus will bear the names of my parents as it provides generations of students with the opportunity to realize their full potential.”

DC Prep is the highest-performing network of public charter schools in the nation’s capital for the past six consecutive years, serving over 1,800 preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students across five campuses. The Anacostia site, DC Prep’s fifth campus to date, is currently home to 300 preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> graders; the campus will “grow up” a grade level annually through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the years to come.

*(Over)*

### ***About DC Prep***

*DC Prep is the highest-performing network of public charter schools in the nation's capital for six years running. Founded in 2003, DC Prep is bridging the educational divide in Washington by increasing the number of students from underserved communities with the academic preparation and personal character to succeed in competitive high schools and colleges. DC Prep currently serves over 1,800 students in preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> grade on five campuses in Wards 5, 7, and 8. In time, DC Prep will grow to ten campuses ultimately enrolling 3,500 students in Washington's most under-resourced communities. For more information, visit [www.dcprep.org/power](http://www.dcprep.org/power).*

### ***About The Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation***

*The Rales Foundation is dedicated to providing children and families facing challenging circumstances with transformative opportunities to thrive through enhanced education, health, and social services. To achieve this objective, the Foundation focuses its efforts primarily on supporting high-performing charter schools, forming public-private partnerships, and investing in innovative programs and services.*

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