



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brightside Academy Selected as One of New Head Start Replacement Grantees for Lucas County, Ohio

(Pittsburgh, PA, June 6, 2014) – The US Department of Health and Human Services has selected Brightside Academy as one of two Head Start grantees for Lucas County, Ohio. The company will provide high-quality services to 455 children and their families. Services will be provided in partnership with Acelero Learning, whose capabilities in helping local communities have dramatically improved the quality of Head Start programs and generated positive child outcomes for participating children.

Brightside Academy will offer integrated, year-round Head Start services to children from birth through four-years-old at its three Toledo facilities located in Central City, Polish Village and the Eastside. It will collaborate with the Toledo Public School District and other community providers to improve the kindergarten readiness of the city's low-income children.

"Brightside Academy is laser-focused on providing the highest-quality early learning experiences to low-income children and families. Our primary objective is to prepare children for kindergarten, which ultimately reduces the achievement gap that exists in America today," said Mark Kehoe, Brightside Academy Chief Executive Officer.

"As a Toledo native, I am excited for our community and for the children and families that the Lucas County Head Start program will serve. Head Start has a life-changing impact on families," said Katherine Maccagnone, Brightside Academy Executive Director for Toledo. "I believe our work the last six years here in Toledo has prepared us for this moment. Together, we will make amazing things happen for each child we serve through Head Start in Lucas County."

Brightside Academy partner Acelero Learning was recently recognized as one of 12 programs in the country to receive the Office of Head Start's 2013 Leadership Award for Effective Family Engagement. Their most recent federal review conducted in March 2013 identified zero areas of non-compliance, a perfect score, in all of the company's current Head Start programs. Independently validated research of Acelero Learning's program showed more than double the gains of the average Head Start program.

Founder and chairman of Acelero Learning, Aaron Lieberman, said, "we are thrilled to partner with Brightside Academy to help them provide high-impact, high-quality, Head Start services. We believe that Head Start programs can be the key difference-maker in helping low-income children enter school ready to succeed and look forward to working with them to implement our proven approaches in Toledo."

To learn about Brightside Academy visit www.BrightsideAcademy.com. To schedule an academy tour or enroll your child, visit BrightsideAcademy.com or call 877-868-2273.

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Brightside Academy is a leader in child care and early education that provides all families access to an excellent early educational experience. Brightside Academy operates academies in multiple cities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. Brightside Academy is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA. For more information, visit www.BrightsideAcademy.com. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/brightsideacademy. Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/bsafamily.