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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CATALYST CIRCLE ROCK CHARTER SCHOOL GROWS  
BECAUSE OF GIFT FROM U.S. BANK**

The Catalyst Schools received a major gift from U.S. Bank. The gift has helped the Catalyst Schools grow to accommodate 520 students at its Circle Rock Charter School site. The Catalyst Schools have two sites: Austin, 5608 W. Washington Blvd and North Lawndale, 1616 S. Spaulding. The gift is designated for the Catalyst Schools-Circle Rock Charter in Austin.

More



## **CATALYST CIRCLE ROCK CHARTER SCHOOL GROWS BECAUSE OF GIFT FROM U.S. BANK**

U.S. Bank expressed its commitment to education and Chicago's West Side recently when it presented a \$500,000 grant to the Catalyst Schools.

The bank's grant represents the final installment of a five-year, \$2.5 million pledge to open the Catalyst School - Circle Rock Charter in the Austin community. Because of this gift, the school will grow to 504 students in 2010. More than 95% of the 504 students are from the Austin neighborhood.

Catalyst Circle Rock Charter School is an important part of the community's effort to bring opportunity for young K-8 students to enter high performing high schools and to get advanced education. This is a long term plan to ensure the ongoing success of the youth in the Austin neighborhood.

"Like most schools, Circle Rock faces a very challenging year of significant reductions in state and city aid to education," explained Catalyst CEO and co-founder Gordon Hannon. "Thanks to U.S. Bank's commitment, we can achieve an enviable level of financial health that allows us to continue offering the core programs that consistently deliver superior results."

Catalyst Circle Rock Charter School prepares children to meet and exceed state education standards by immersing them in a learning community of calm and respect that places a high value on reading, literacy, math, science and social studies. In addition, an award-winning visual and performing arts enrichment program nurtures student creativity. Alumni receive academic support throughout their high school experience so they graduate on time and go on to earn a college degree, or secure gainful employment, by age 25. Eight grade graduates are eligible to participate in the Countdown to College Program that prepares them throughout their high school years to enroll and succeed in college.

"Catalyst scholars are learning first-hand that at Circle Rock, we care about and cultivate their development as both leaders and learners," commented Senior Principal Sala K. Sims. At Catalyst, children are important and we educate the "whole" child.



Kathy Adams, whose son Christopher attends Circle Rock, added, “Catalyst has been supportive and encouraging and the environment my son needed to develop into the student he has become.”

### **About the Catalyst Schools**

The Catalyst Schools are two K-8 college-preparatory, values-based charter schools on Chicago’s west side. In addition to Catalyst—Circle Rock Charter, a sister school, Catalyst—Howland Charter, educates children in North Lawndale. The Catalyst Schools help a combined student population of more than 1000 become educationally, socially and emotionally confident young people. The Catalyst Schools are rooted in values and the commitment that students will be agents of change in their communities and our city.

### **About the U.S. Bank**

U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), with \$282 billion in assets as of March 31, 2010, is the parent company of U.S. Bank, the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. The company operates 3,025 banking offices in 24 states and 5,312 ATMs and provides a comprehensive line of banking, brokerage, insurance, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers, businesses and institutions. Visit U.S. Bancorp on the web at [usbank.com](http://usbank.com).

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