

## MISSION

To transform education by starting young, involving parents, and creating learning environments to inspire children from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds.

## VISION

As we transform education, we transform communities by creating outstanding schools that empower, enrich, and support children and families.

## OUR SCHOOLS

**LUMIN EAST DALLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL (est. 1978)** – Lumin East Dallas Community School was founded in 1978 by a group of parents and teachers who were determined to provide an excellent education to the children in their low-income neighborhood.

**LUMIN LINDSLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL (est. 1999)** - In 1999 we created a new campus in East Dallas that replicates the Lumin model. At both East Dallas and Lindsley Park campuses, we provide parent education and early childhood education from pregnancy through third grade.

**LUMIN BACHMAN LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL (est. 2009)** - At our Bachman Lake site, we begin with parents during pregnancy and provide parent education for families through age five.

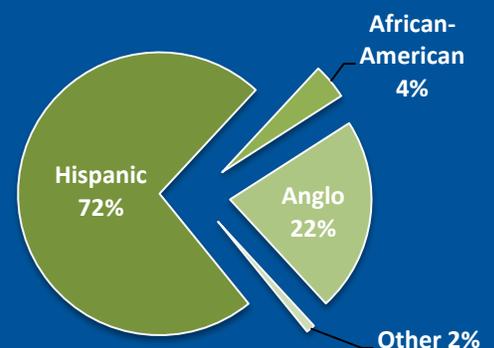
## POPULATION SERVED

Lumin Education educates more than 550 children each year. Thirty-nine percent of our students do not speak English when they enroll at our schools and 70% of Lumin students are from low-income families.

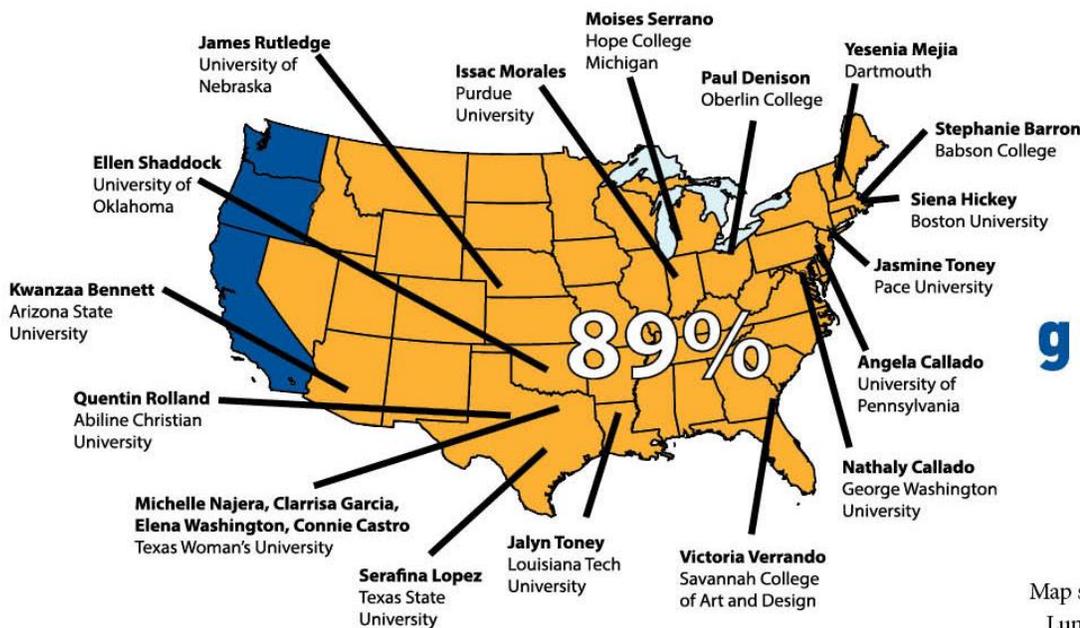
## KEYS TO OUR SUCCESS

1. We start young to take advantage of the windows of opportunity in a child's early brain development.
2. We involve parents as partners in their child's education.
3. We expect excellence from each child.
4. We teach values; children learn the importance of being kind, loving, and respectful.
5. We encourage initiative so children learn how to be responsible for their own learning.
6. We create small, supportive school communities, where people know each other and help students build on their strengths.

## Student Demographics



95% of our alumni graduate from high school



89% of our high school graduates attend college

Map shows a sample of where some of Lumin alumni have attended college

## Did You Know...

In 2014, the State of Texas recognized Lumin Education with a "Superior Achievement" rating for Fiscal Integrity, based on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas.

In 2014 Lumin Education earned a Texas Distinction Designation based on students' reading performance and met Texas state standards in Student Achievement, Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness.

In 2013, Lumin Education was nationally recognized as one of four "Exemplars" by the Trust for Learning.

In 2014 SMU honored Lumin Education with the 2014 Simmons Luminary Award for improving people's lives through education.

## 2014 Simmons Luminary Awards honor advocates for children

SMU Simmons Luminary Award logo Four organizations that advocate for the education and well-being of at-risk children will be honored Thursday, Jan. 23, by SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

The East Dallas Community Schools, TexProtects, the Children's Defense Fund and Stand for Children will receive 2014 Luminary Awards at 6:30 p.m. in the Martha Proctor Mack Grand Ballroom, Umphrey Lee Center.

"This year's honorees exemplify the power of collaboration and will to create movements that champion children who are poor, neglected or abused," says David Chard, Leon Simmons Endowed Dean of the Simmons School. "These children, like any other, deserve a healthy childhood and a good education; the recipients of the Luminary Award shine an important light on what we need to advance."

For 35 years, the East Dallas Community Schools (EDCS) have documented the power of high-quality early childhood education, particularly education that starts young and involves the parents. Based on the Montessori education model, staff at the three EDCS campuses provide parents of 550 students with information, encouragement and support. The schools are located in high-risk Dallas areas and open to children ages nine or younger, regardless of income. School founder and director Terry Nelson Ford, a 1974 SMU graduate, will accept the Luminary Award for local excellence.

The Luminary Award was created in 2009 by the Simmons School to honor individuals and organizations that have shown an extraordinary commitment to improving people's lives through education. The award is given annually to a local, regional and national recipient.

Written by Nancy George

## School honored

**E**ast Dallas Community Schools' Lindsley Park campus has been awarded the 2011 Educational Achievement Award from the **American Psychoanalytic Association**.

"I cannot think of any award that I am more proud of than this one, which recognizes our work in supporting children's emotional well-being," said **Terry Ford**, executive director. "Since its founding in 1978, a founding principle of EDCS has been that emotional well-being is the key to providing our students with a foundation for success."



**ROBERT MILLER**

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The national award is given to schools that further "psychoanalytically informed" work with pre-K through 12th grade educators, schools and students. East Dallas Community Schools offer free play-therapy sessions to children dealing with emotional or behavioral problems.

"Children may not be able to talk about their worries, so they communicate them through their play," said **Carol Wolfe**, a licensed counselor who leads the play-therapy sessions. "In the presence of an accepting adult and through the children's play, youngsters can come to face and master previously debilitating anxieties and fears. Then a child is better able to learn and work cooperatively in the classroom."

Child psychoanalysts **B. James Bennett and Sarah Rabb Bennett** also provide pro bono consultations with teachers to help them understand children dealing with emotional or behavioral problems.

East Dallas Community Schools operate in mostly low-income neighborhoods and use the Montessori approach to education, which is based on a child's natural instinct to learn.

In 2010, the Lindsley Park campus scored higher on the **TAKS** test in math and reading than the same grade level in Dallas ISD, and the campus is in the top 17 percent of Texas schools that were rated exemplary.

Representatives from East Dallas Community Schools and Lindsley Park will accept the award Jan. 13 in New York.

## WHAT'S BEING SAID ABOUT US

“The school has an outstanding record of educating children from primarily low income families of diverse cultures for more than 30 years.” – **North Texas E-News**

“EDCS is succeeding where it sometimes seems impossible.” – **Steve Blow, The Dallas Morning News**

“At a time when public education seems to have momentarily lost its way, this little school ... offers hope that the path is not lost for good.” – **Steve Blow, The Dallas Morning News**

“The dynamism of [Lumin] will impress anyone who walks through its cluster of renovated houses.” – **Philip Seib, The Dallas Morning News**

“For ... decades, [Lumin] has been quietly disproving everyone who ever claimed that children from impoverished families have less chance to excel in learning.” - **Henry Tatum, The Dallas Morning News**

“Entering the classroom at [Lumin] is unlike anything normally seen in public education.” - **Henry Tatum, The Dallas Morning News**

“Open the door and discover the education miracles taking place inside.” – **Henry Tatum, The Dallas Morning News**

“Bachman Lake Community School is being hailed as a model institution for providing parent education and early literacy training to poverty level families using Montessori-style instruction.” – **North Texas E-News**

“At [Lumin], children who have been written off by other schools as problem learners discover that not only can they learn, they can excel.” – **Rena Pederson, The Dallas Morning News**

“They’ve discovered something that every teacher and parent and school system needs to rediscover: Children learn best when there are dedicated teachers and parents to set the example.” – **Rena Pederson, The Dallas Morning News**

“Everything they do could be transferred to the public schools. Once we make a case for what can be done, parents will be demanding more schools like it.” – **Ross Perot**

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