



**For Immediate Release**

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**Summit International Prep, an Uplift Education school, recognized for strong academic performance**

Exemplary-rated school launches International Baccalaureate program, begins \$24 million facilities improvements, and inducts first senior class

**DALLAS, Texas (August 17, 2010)** – Summit International Preparatory, a charter school operated by Uplift Education, received Exemplary ratings for its Primary, Middle and High Schools last week from the Texas Education Agency. The school ratings are based on TAKS results from the 2009-2010 school year. Summit International Prep met or exceeded the State passing rates on every test and exceeded State Commended rates by in 19 of the 27 tested areas – most by double-digit margins. The Commended status is considered a better indicator of college-readiness for students than simply passing TAKS.

Summit International Prep students excelled in Math and Science tests, with 100 percent of juniors meeting standards for both Math and Science exit-level tests. The campus also exceeded State Commended rates for all middle and high school Math and Science tests.

The high marks come on the heels of a \$24 million investment in campus facilities to construct a new high school classroom building, gymnasium and primary classroom building. The work will be completed over the next three years and is the first major expansion at the charter school since it opened in 2007. Summit is one of seven campuses operated by Uplift Education. The construction is being financed by a \$56.8 million bond sale conducted by Uplift Education earlier this year.

Also included in the improvements to Summit International Preparatory are expanded parking at the secondary school, security upgrades, soccer field upgrades, and future campus planning. Summit received a KABOOM! grant for a new playground earlier this year as part of the National Basketball Association Cares community work associated with the All-Star game held at Cowboys Stadium. The improvements are in conjunction with significant student and curriculum achievements on campus.

Summit International was also recently named as a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme. The IB program is offered as part of a rigorous college preparation curriculum that ensures all students the opportunity to attend college following graduation. Every Uplift campus has achieved candidate or accredited status for at least one of the IB programs.

Summit International Prep's 600 students started back to school on August 12. This will be the school's first year with a senior class, and their goal is to have 100 percent of students accepted to college.

### ***About Uplift Education***

*Uplift Education is dedicated to operating schools that provide a quality education by raising and continually maintaining high expectations for students and staff. Our schools provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation. It is Uplift's goal to dramatically increase the number of students from all backgrounds who are provided a high quality public education – 100% of seniors graduate and are accepted to college. Uplift Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

*Uplift educates 4,600 students on seven campuses: Hampton Preparatory (South Dallas), Heights Preparatory (West Dallas), Laureate Preparatory (Downtown Dallas), North Hills Preparatory (Irving), Peak Preparatory (East Dallas), Summit International Preparatory (Arlington) and Williams Preparatory (Northwest Dallas). Under the 2010 accountability ratings, 97% of Uplift's students attend a school that has received one of Texas' two highest ratings, with 88% attending top-rated Exemplary schools and 9% attending schools rated as Recognized. For more information, visit <http://www.uplifteducation.org>.*