



For Immediate Release  
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## **WALIPP ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION MATCHING GIFT FROM THE KINDER FOUNDATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAWSON ACADEMY**

Houston – June 23, 2016 – The William A. Lawson Institute for Peace & Prosperity is pleased to announce a \$1,000,000 matching capital campaign gift from the Kinder Foundation. This is the largest single donation to the \$4.5 million capital campaign for the construction of The Lawson Academy.

“This lead gift is a tremendous start to our capital campaign,” stated Cheryl Lawson, executive director, WALIPP. “We are thrilled to receive support from the Kinder Foundation and look forward to working with the Houston community to raise the dollar-for-dollar matching funds to achieve the total campaign goal.”

“The Kinder Foundation’s hope is that this gift will encourage others to support the construction of The Lawson Academy which is so critical to the education of young students in the Third Ward and we are excited to aid in the work of the Lawson Family,” said Nancy Kinder, president, Kinder Foundation.

The Lawson Academy (formally WALIPP Preparatory Academy) was opened in 2002 to provide academic and social development to young people and to help them learn to become strong adults. After nine years under H.I.S.D. as an “external” charter, The Lawson Academy competed for and received a Texas State Charter in 2010. Today, The Lawson Academy operates two single gender middle school campuses (one for girls and one for boys). The Lawson Academy uses a creative academic curriculum to build student success and develop the whole person. The majority of the students are low income. Our attention to Middle School Students (Grades 6, 7, and 8) recognizes the Lawson’s commitment to growing a strong community, one scholar at a time.

The William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity provides and supports programs that are dedicated to improving and impacting the lives of others through education, social well-being, and justice. Students will transition from their present location to the newly constructed Lawson Academy located at 5052 Scott Street, in January 2017.

The Kinder Foundation, a family foundation established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder, has distributed nearly \$260 million in gifts to transformational projects in the areas of urban green space, education, and quality of life. For more information, visit [kinderfoundation.org](http://kinderfoundation.org).

With this generous gift from the Kinder Foundation, WALIPP will be able to serve our community for generations to come. Visit [walipp.org](http://walipp.org).

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