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For Immediate Release

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Five Ben Carson Reading Rooms to Debut in SCUSD

SACRAMENTO, CA – Through the generosity of the Richard Lumsden Foundation, the Carson Scholars Fund is pleased to announce the opening of five Ben Carson Reading Rooms in Sacramento City Unified School District.

The grand opening ceremony will take place on Wednesday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m. at Ethel I. Baker Elementary School, 5717 Laurine Way, Sacramento, CA 95824.

World-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, New York Times bestselling author and Carson Scholars Fund co-founder, Dr. Ben Carson is scheduled to attend the ceremony and address the students, administrators and community members.

The five Sacramento schools selected to receive the reading rooms are: David Lubin Elementary, Ethel I. Baker Elementary, Hollywood Park Elementary, H.W. Harkness Elementary and John Cabrillo Elementary. These are the first Ben Carson Reading Rooms to be established in California.

The Ben Carson Reading Project is one of the educational initiatives of the Carson Scholars Fund. The purpose of the Ben Carson Reading Project is to create a literacy enriched environment for children to develop their reading skills. The reading project is dedicated to promoting reading as a key to unlocking a child's full potential.

As a child, Ben Carson had a dream of becoming a physician. Growing up in a single parent home with dire poverty, poor grades, a horrible temper and low self-esteem appeared to preclude the realization of

that dream until his mother, with only a third-grade education, challenged her sons to strive for excellence. Ben Carson credits reading as being a catalyst to his success.

“When I was a child, reading allowed me to discover all the opportunities that the world has to offer,” said Dr. Carson. “There are endless possibilities for students when they discover the joy of reading and learning. If children begin to challenge themselves to soak up all the information they can, they will certainly be able to reach their goals and achieve their dreams.”

“We are grateful to the Richard Lumsden Foundation and to the Carson Scholars Fund for their generous support of our work to improve literacy in our schools,” said Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Sacramento City Unified School District. “Our schools work tirelessly to instill a love of reading in our students at a young age and the new Ben Carson Reading Rooms will help us with these efforts.”

Currently, there are 94 Ben Carson Reading Rooms serving students in 13 states and Washington D.C.

Dr. Carson will be available for interviews before and after the ceremony.

The Carson Scholars Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity founded in 1994 by world renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson and his wife, Candy. The organization is dedicated to combating illiteracy and promoting leisure reading as a key to unlocking a child’s full potential.

Schedule of Events

1:30 p.m.	Program begins at Ethel I. Baker Elementary School
1:30 p.m.	Welcome from Principal Ms. Olga Arellano
1:34 p.m.	Remarks by SCUSD Interim Superintendent Dr. Sara Noguchi
1:43 p.m.	Introduction of Dr. Ben Carson by Mrs. Candy Carson
1:44 p.m.	Remarks by Dr. Ben Carson
2:12 p.m.	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

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