



CREATING GREAT SCHOOLS

PARTNER WITH PHALEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES

DECEMBER 2025



WHY CHOOSE DAVID AND JEAN PHALEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

1. GARY'S LEGACY AND PROMISE

Resilience, Heritage, and the Hope for a Brighter Future

2. OUR APPROACH

Generational Impact Through a Whole-Child, Whole-Family Approach

3. OUR MODEL

Phalen Leadership Academies—Proven Academic Model

4. BETTER JOBS FOR PARENTS

Skilled US—Workforce Training Proven to Help Families Gain Economic Security

5. EVIDENCE BASED SUMMER LEARNING

Summer Advantage—Scientifically Proven to Reverse Learning Loss

6. CONCLUSION

Why PLA Gary

DAVID AND JEAN PHALEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (DJPLA) AND GARY'S LEGACY AND PROMISE

Resilience, Heritage, and the Hope for a Brighter Future

A City Rooted in Resilience

Founded as a steel town, Gary once stood as a beacon of industry, opportunity, and community pride.

As the steel industry declined, so too did many of the businesses and institutions that sustained the community.

Even amid these challenges, Gary remains a birthplace of greatness.

Current Educational Challenges

Many schools lack consistent resources to meet the diverse academic and social-emotional needs of children.

Families face high poverty rates, which often create stressors that spill into classrooms.

Academic achievement gaps persist, limiting opportunities for students in comparison to peers across Indiana.

Families in Gary want what all families want: safe neighborhoods, quality schools, and opportunities for their children to thrive.



...Phalen Leadership Academies can help turn that vision into meaningful change.

DJPLA BELIEVES IN GENERATIONAL IMPACT THROUGH A WHOLE-CHILD, WHOLE-FAMILY APPROACH

Changing Lives, Strengthening Families, Transforming Communities

Education Sparks Generational Change:

Quality education shapes confident, capable adults who contribute to their communities.

Family Support Multiplies Impact:

When families gain economic security, our scholars gain the foundation they need to thrive in school and beyond

Three Aligned Programs, One Mission:

- **Phalen Leadership Academies (PLA):** Rigorous K-12 education with a track record of academic success.
- **Skilled US:** Career training and industry-recognized certifications for adults 17+, aligned with West Virginia's workforce needs.
- **Summer Advantage:** Summer learning that reverses learning loss and provides safe, enriching experiences.



PHALEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES—PROVEN ACADEMIC MODEL

A Replicable Model Delivering Tangible Gains

The PLA Model:

Data-driven instruction, rigorous curriculum, social-emotional support, and community engagement.

Academic Achievements:

- High-quality, tuition-free education.
- Safe, nurturing learning environment.
- College and career readiness beginning in the early grades.

Proven Results:

- Every school in our flagship community is A-rated.
- Increased proficiency at our Ohio school by 14% in ELA and 31% in math in three years.
- Our Indiana schools outgrew the state average on the third-grade reading exam by 15%.

PLA in Gary:

PLA plans to launch a K-5 elementary school in Fall 2026, and a middle school serving grades 6-8 in Fall 2027, both in Gary.



“At PLA, I feel like my teachers and classmates believe in me. They don’t just help me learn math and reading—they show me that I can dream big and make a difference in my community.”

OUR COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING FAMILIES - FREE WORKFORCE TRAINING

Empowering Adults, Elevating Communities

Pathways to Prosperity:

Programs for ages 17+, designed for in-demand fields—healthcare, CDL/trucking, HVAC, manufacturing and more.

Proven Outcomes:

- Participants secure jobs that pay \$45,000-\$125,000 per year plus full benefits.
- 83% of participants complete the program on time.
- Participants increase earnings by 165%.

"I greatly appreciated the opportunity to receive a grant from Skilled US to help me move forward into a field that I have wanted to pursue for a long time. Thank you!"

Real Story – Kiera's Journey

- **Overcame Barriers:** Kiera, earning just \$22K/year, faced significant personal and financial challenges.
- **Completed Training:** Finished a rigorous six-week CDL program through Skilled US's partner.
- **Transformed Future:** Now earns \$60K+ annually with full benefits—nearly tripled her previous salary.



DJPLA PROVIDES SUMMER ADVANTAGE—PROVEN TO REVERSE LEARNING LOSS

Accelerating Achievement While Inspiring Joy

Learning Gains:

Scholars gain 2 months of reading and math skills—while most students nationwide lose 2-3 months of skills

Scientifically Validated Model:

Two independent evaluations demonstrate significant impact on academic achievement and family engagement

Safe, Enriching Summers:

Engaging curriculum, hands-on experiences, arts, STEM, and field trips.

High Satisfaction:

Over 90% of scholars, families and staff are satisfied with the program.

“I like Summer Advanatge. The teachers are so nice to me. They really care about us.”



CONCLUSION - WHY CHOOSE DJPLA GARY

A Trusted Partner for Gary's Future

Proven Model, Proven Results:

Academic growth, workforce pathways, and summer learning gains.

Community Commitment:

PLA partners deeply with local organizations, employers, and families.

Generational Impact:

Comprehensive support for both students and families creates lasting impact.

Call to Action:

Together, we can provide more children with the great education they need and deserve.





JOIN US IN CREATING
GREAT SCHOOLS



PHALEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES