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TUCSON, Arizona. (May 13, 2013) – The Rising School, a college-prep charter school founded by Tucson educator Dr. George Rising, is opening this August near Craycroft and Grant.

"Safe, Small, and Smart: We're your new neighborhood school!" is The Rising School's tagline, welcoming especially those affected by TUSD closings. One of just seven schools to earn a charter in Arizona this year, The Rising School is situated directly across the street from TUSD's Townsend K-8 School, which is permanently shutting its doors later this month.

The Rising School (TRS), located at 2222 N. Craycroft Road just south of Grant Road, is a tuition-free school serving grades 6-9 (later expanding to grades 6-12). TRS will prepare its students for success in college and 21st century careers by delivering a rigorous, world-class education in a small, personal setting. TRS will work with each student to develop a Personal Learning Plan (PLP). The individualized PLP documents students' strengths and gaps, describes their interests and ambitions, and helps them set school, personal, and career goals.

TRS was co-founded by Dr. George Rising, a former principal of three local schools, and Stephanie Rising, a longtime Tucson businesswoman. Both feel the key is recruiting and supporting great teachers. "Educational research shows that the individual teacher in the classroom is the chief in-school variable affecting student learning," says Dr. Rising. "I've personally seen their impact time and again as a principal who has observed hundreds of classroom lessons over the years." Each member of TRS's small faculty is an experienced classroom teacher. Each teacher also is an expert in their content area, holding a masters' degree and having completed or currently completing a doctorate. "Teachers with graduate degrees in academic subjects know what it takes to succeed in college, and they will transmit that knowledge to their students," observes Dr. Rising.

The Rising School is also committed to incorporating character development in its mission. Whereas students' grades will be based solely on academic results, students' Civic Scores will be based on their effort, attitude, and helping others in the school and community. "We are educating the next generation of Tucson's entrepreneurs and workforce," says co-founder Stephanie Rising. "What better way to help develop future leaders than to broaden the definition of education by teaching students about their own community and having expectations of their conduct as citizens?"

The Rising School also prides itself on its facilities. "Unlike many new charter schools, we are *not* located in the middle of a strip mall," observes Ms. Rising. Set off by itself, the school's building encloses a large courtyard that is both safe and pleasant. The school is renovating the

building to make it a new, clean, efficient space for students to learn. Additionally, the school is also located near several parks, libraries, athletic fields, and museums. Finally, the school has signed a lease that will permit it to take over nearby buildings as it grows. "Our location allows us to grow our student body over time while staying in our neighborhood," says Ms. Rising.

For the last two years, the Risings have collaborated with numerous educational experts and business advisors to develop a school with the ambitious goal of "Rising to achieve greatness." Dr. Rising, who has led three top schools in Tucson, knows academic excellence. "Based on my personal experience and educational research," says Dr. Rising, "I've concluded that the very best schools have a culture of high academic expectations, excellent instruction, and positive relationships among all stakeholders. And that's the type of school that we want to build."

About The Rising School: The Rising School is a high-quality college-prep school that prepares Tucson-area students for success in school, college, and 21st century careers. Students, parents, and teachers are treated with respect and enjoy being a part of a safe, caring community; classes are engaging and relevant; teachers are experts in curriculum and instruction; standards and assessments are rigorous; students will create quality projects and surpass state and national standards on assessments; and students will mature into alumni who are successful scholars and professionals engaged with their community and the world. Visit us at www.risingschool.org.

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