NEWS RELEASE

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Benchmark Education Company Celebrates 123 Andrés's Grammy Win for Best Children's Album

The album, *We Grow Together Preschool Songs*, created in partnership with BEC, helps young children develop key life skills.

NEW ROCHELLE, NY, Feb. 6, 2024—Leading educational publisher <u>Benchmark Education</u> <u>Company</u> (BEC) congratulates its partners and collaborators, the musical duo 123 Andrés, on winning a Grammy Award in the category of Best Children's Album, for their album, *We Grow Together Preschool Songs*. The duo, husband and wife Andrés Salguero and Christina Sanabria, won the award at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards, held on February 4, 2024, in Los Angeles, California.

The couple had previously said they were "incredibly honored" to be nominated for the award. "This album is a culmination of our passion for music and early childhood education, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to share it with children and families around the world," they said. Upon receiving the Grammy, Sanabria said in her acceptance speech, "We want to thank and acknowledge all of the nominees in this category. And the *real* winners of this category are the children and the families who hear this music and who see themselves, who hear themselves represented, in the sounds, the flavors, and the artists."

We Grow Together Preschool Songs features 15 original songs that explore themes of socialemotional learning and self-expression. The album is designed to help young children develop important life skills, such as empathy and self-regulation. The songs are also included in <u>Ready</u> <u>to Advance</u>, BEC's comprehensive, core PreK program authored by early-learning experts Vicki Gibson, Ph.D., Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, Ph.D., and Karin Hess, Ph.D. Ready to Advance blends social-emotional development with academic learning to build domain-specific knowledge and early literacy skills. The songs from We Grow Together Preschool Songs provide multimedia support for the social-emotional learning aspect of the program, and help build knowledge of shapes, counting, colors, and the weather.

123 Andrés was previously nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Children's Album in 2021, for their album, *Activate*. In 2016, the duo won a Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin

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Children's Album for *Arriba Abajo*. They received Latin Grammy nominations in the same category in 2015, for *¡Uno, Dos, Tres, con Andrés!*, and in 2019, for *Canta las Letras*.

"We are thrilled that our friends and partners 123 Andrés—Andrés Salguero and Christina Sanabria—have won a much-deserved Grammy Award for their wonderful album, *We Grow Together Preschool Songs*," BEC Co-President Sera R. Hoffman said. "They are truly rock stars for little language learners, and their work has always been, and continues to be, music to our ears. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be collaborating with them in our mission to fully prepare children for lifelong success."

Visit <u>Ready to Advance/Listos y Adelante</u> to learn more about these research-based programs and to view <u>Alphabet Song Videos in English and Spanish</u>.

ABOUT BENCHMARK EDUCATION COMPANY

Benchmark Education Company (BEC) is a leading publisher of core, supplemental, and intervention literacy and language resources in English and Spanish. BEC is also a provider of exceptional professional development to educators.

BEC is recognized as a responsive publisher that offers equally rigorous and engaging digital, print, and hybrid learning materials grounded in the Science of Reading research. BEC monitors research outcomes carefully to create effective foundational resources that include strong decoding materials with systematic and explicit instruction and high-quality resources focused on language development and comprehension. BEC's content-rich and authentic texts offer instruction in close reading and analysis, multiple perspectives, and authentic literature while building world knowledge and reflecting the individuality of every student in each diverse classroom.

Family owned and operated, BEC is committed to partnering with educators to provide the best for all students through resources of exceptional quality, world-class professional learning, and effective and dedicated customer support.