



Bridgeport Public Schools

For Immediate Release

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\$125,000 in Broad Prize Scholarships Awarded to 13 Bridgeport High School Seniors to Attend College

LOS ANGELES – Thirteen Bridgeport high school seniors have won a collective \$125,000 in Broad Prize college scholarships, the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation announced today. Students in Bridgeport Public Schools (BPS) received the scholarships because the district was a finalist for the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The nation's largest education award given to school districts, the \$1 million Broad Prize honors large urban districts that have demonstrated the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement in the nation while reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students. As a finalist for the 2007 Broad Prize, BPS received \$125,000 in scholarships for 2008 graduating seniors.

“We are proud to support these Broad Prize scholars in their pursuit of college,” said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a national education philanthropy based in Los Angeles. “These students have worked hard and it has paid off – they have improved their grades over the course of high school, and we look forward to their success in college.”

A full list of this year's scholarship recipients in Bridgeport is below.

Unlike many traditional scholarships that are awarded only to top-tier students, Broad Prize

scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who have a demonstrated record of *improving* their grades over the course of their high school career and have a financial need.

Broad Prize scholars are eligible for two- or four-year scholarships depending on the type of institution they choose to attend. Scholarship recipients who enroll in four-year institutions receive \$10,000 paid out over four years (\$2,500 per year). Students who enroll in two-year institutions receive \$2,500 scholarships paid out over two years (\$1,250 per year). The scholarship selection and disbursement process is managed by Scholarship and Recognition Programs, a unit of Educational Testing Service.

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Each year, 100 of the largest urban school districts nationwide are automatically eligible for The Broad Prize. Districts cannot apply for this award. To win, a district must demonstrate academic performance and improvement, a reduction in income and ethnic achievement gaps and systemic district policies and practices leading to gains.

Last year, for the second time in a row, BPS was named a finalist for the award, namely because the district outperformed and out-improved similar Connecticut districts and narrowed Hispanic, African-American and low-income achievement gaps.

The winner of the 2008 Broad Prize will be announced on Oct. 14 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. This year's finalists are: Aldine Independent School District, Texas; Broward County Public Schools, Fla.; Brownsville Public Schools, Texas; the Long Beach Unified School District, Calif.; and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Since The Broad Prize was first awarded in 2002, more than 730 students nationwide have received college scholarships. For more information about The Broad Prize, please visit www.broadprize.org.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is a national venture philanthropy established by entrepreneur and philanthropist Eli Broad to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. The Broad Foundation's education work is focused on dramatically improving urban K-12 public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition. The foundation's Internet address is www.broadfoundation.org.

The following 13 BPS seniors were selected to receive Broad Prize scholarships:

Student Name	High School
Ashley Corpuz	Bassick High School
Daniel Ndamwizeye	Bassick High School
Sade Garvey	Bassick High School
Zenas Walelo	Bassick High School
Claudia Silva	Central Magnet High School
Gabriela Solis	Central Magnet High School

Jamieca Brown	Central Magnet High School
Monifa Francis	Central Magnet High School
Mylva Lopes	Central Magnet High School
Sophia Cherestal	Central Magnet High School
Stephanie Delacruz	Central Magnet High School
Halimat Somotan	Warren Harding High School
Khadijat Adetona	Warren Harding High School

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Tonight at 7pm students at Bassick High School will be surprised with 40k in scholarship dollars at the Klein Memorial.

The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students “college ready” and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit our website at www.bridgeportedu.com.

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