

Long Beach Unified School District Wins Another \$125,000 in Scholarships; Recognized Nationally as Finalist for The Broad Prize

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007

Contact: The Broad Foundation, Erica Lepping
Cell: (310) 594-6880, Office: (310) 954-5053
el@broadfoundation.org
LBUSD, Chris Eftychiou
Cell: (562)843-5385, Office: (562)997-8250

WASHINGTON – The Long Beach Unified School District, recognized again today as one of the top urban school districts in the country, will receive \$125,000 in scholarships as a finalist for the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings joined philanthropist Eli Broad at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to announce the winner. Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered the keynote address at a celebratory Broad Prize luncheon following the announcement, after remarks by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The \$1 million Broad (rhymes with “road”) Prize is an annual award that honors large urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students. The money goes directly to graduating high school seniors for college scholarships.

Long Beach won The Broad Prize in 2003 and is the first former winner to return to the competition. Winners are ineligible for three years, making this year the first that Long Beach was again in the running.

“Nothing is more important to the future of this country than giving young people the tools to succeed,” said Secretary Spellings, before opening the envelope that revealed New York City was the 2007 Broad Prize winner. “With the help of strong, innovative leadership, Broad Prize school districts are proving that if we raise our expectations, our children will rise to the challenge.”

Long Beach and the three other Broad Prize finalist districts – Bridgeport Public Schools in Connecticut, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Northside Independent School District in San Antonio – each will receive \$125,000 in college scholarships for 2008 graduating high school seniors. Long Beach will again be eligible next year for the 2008 Broad Prize.

“Long Beach hasn’t rested on its laurels,” said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. “The district has sustained a level of high performance that is both an example and a motivator for struggling urban school districts nationwide.”

Among the reasons Long Beach stood out among large urban American school districts:

- **Greater performance.** In 2006, Long Beach *outperformed California districts serving students with similar income levels* in reading and math at all grade levels: elementary, middle and high school, according to The Broad Prize methodology. Similarly, each of Long Beach’s subgroups – *low-income, African-American and Hispanic students* – also *outperformed their peers in comparable California districts* in reading and math at all grade levels.

-more-

- **Greater improvement.** Between 2003 and 2006, Long Beach *showed greater improvement than other California districts serving similar income levels* in middle and high school reading and math, according to The Broad Prize methodology. In addition, Long Beach's *low-income students showed greater improvement than their peers in similar California districts* in math at all grade levels and in middle and high school reading.
- **Closing achievement gaps.** Between 2003 and 2006, Long Beach *narrowed achievement gaps between:*
 - *Hispanic students and their white peers in the district* in elementary school reading and math – faster than the equivalent statewide gap; and,
 - *African-American students and their white peers in the district* in elementary and middle school reading and in elementary school math – faster than the equivalent statewide gap.

For additional student achievement outcomes and the key policies and practices that led Long Beach to be named a Broad Prize finalist, please visit www.broadprize.org.

The Broad Prize was started in 2002. In addition to Long Beach in 2003, previous winners include Boston Public Schools (2006), Norfolk Public Schools in Virginia (2005), Garden Grove Unified School District in California(2004) and the Houston Independent School District (2002).

This year, 100 of the largest urban school districts nationwide were eligible for The Broad Prize. The five finalists were selected by a board of 14 prominent national education experts after a rigorous review of data compiled and analyzed by MPR Associates, a leading education research consulting firm based in Berkeley, Calif. A site visit team led by SchoolWorks, an education consulting company based in Beverly, Mass., then visited each finalist district, interviewed administrators, teachers, principals, parents, community leaders, school board members and union representatives and conducted classroom observations.

This summer, a selection jury of nine prominent national leaders from government, business, industry, education and public service reviewed all resulting quantitative and qualitative data to select the winner. This year's selection jury included:

- **John Engler**, president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers and former governor of Michigan
- **Susan Hockfield**, president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **James B. Hunt, Jr.**, chairman of the board, Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy and former governor of North Carolina
- **Shirley Ann Jackson**, president, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- **Roderick Paige**, chairman and founder, Chartwell Education Group and former U.S. secretary of education
- **Hugh Price**, former president and chief executive officer, National Urban League
- **Richard W. Riley**, former U.S. secretary of education and former governor of South Carolina
- **Andrew L. Stern**, international president of Service Employees International Union
- **Mark Warner**, former governor of Virginia

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 Broad Foundation's Internet address is www.broadfoundation.org.

Note: To access newsfeed of the event, visit www.broadprize.org for satellite coordinates. To access photos of the event, visit the AP wire after 4 p.m. on Sept. 18.

###