



First Annual Fairfield County Academic Gain Award Goes To The International School at Rogers Magnet in Stamford

Every Full Time Employee of Winning School to Receive \$500

Norwalk, CT, October 30, 2007 — Lone Pine Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut-based private foundation which seeks to break the cycle of poverty through education, announced today that **The International School at Rogers Magnet in Stamford** is the winner of the first annual Fairfield County Academic Gain Award. The Award is designed to acknowledge elementary schools that have made the greatest academic gain in student achievement, to create incentive for other schools to work toward significant academic gains, and to foster the sharing of the best practices used by high achieving schools. Lone Pine Foundation's Executive Director Lucy Ball was joined by Dr. Ron Ferguson, the highly regarded Harvard education expert, at Norwalk Community College to make the announcement.

As the winner of the Fairfield County Academic Gain Award, every full-time employee at The International School at Rogers Magnet in Stamford during the 2006-07 academic year will receive \$500. Every full-time employee of the 1st runner-up school, **The Renaissance School at Hamilton Avenue in Greenwich**, will receive \$350 and all full-time employees of the three finalist schools - **Booth Hill School in Trumbull, Morris Street School in Danbury, Multicultural Magnet School in Bridgeport** – will receive \$250. In addition, The International School at Rogers Magnet will receive \$1,000 to be used at the school's discretion. The 1st runner-up, The Renaissance School at Hamilton Avenue School in Greenwich, will receive \$750 and the remaining finalist schools will each receive \$500.

“The International School at Rogers Magnet in Stamford has experienced remarkable growth in test results in reading, writing, and math,” Ms. Ball said. “Rogers is an excellent school that truly lives up to their high expectations that all students can be high achievers.”

“We commend the winning, 1st runner-up, and finalist schools for their academic achievements as well as their commitment to every student,” Ball added.

Every elementary school in Fairfield County was considered for the Fairfield County Academic Gain Award. The Award's Advisory Board which is made up of Lone Pine Foundation Board Members, education practitioners and local funders who focus on education, together with Cambridge Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education undertook statistical analysis of the Connecticut Mastery Test results. The ten schools across the county which made

the most significant academic gains to overall achievement were then identified. The Lone Pine Foundation Advisory Board and Cambridge Education then selected a short list of the five most improved schools.

A team from the Advisory Board conducted site visits at each of the finalist schools on the short list. The visits included interviews with the principals, students, teachers, and parents, as well as thorough reviews and evaluations of school portfolios – test data, student work samples, school improvement plans, and professional development plans.

The site visits used the School Assessment Program and Criteria as developed by Cambridge Education and the CT State Department of Education to evaluate the improvements made in student achievement, the quality of education provided, and the level of sustainability at the school. This information was then presented to the Advisory Board and the winning school was then chosen.

About the Lone Pine Foundation:

Lone Pine Foundation, Inc. (“Lone Pine”) is a private foundation funded by the employees of Lone Pine Capital LLC who are all participating board members. Lone Pine was founded November 30, 2001 with a strong initiative to help children and families in the New York City, Westchester County, NY and Fairfield County, CT. Lone Pine Foundation seeks to break the cycle of poverty through education. Therefore, Lone Pine believes in rewarding those schools who educate using best practices and enable their students to achieve the greatest academic gain.

About Cambridge Education

Cambridge Education, a leading global provider of education consulting services for more than 25 years, is committed to helping improve the quality of education in the United States. It works collaboratively with state agencies, districts, and schools to positively impact student learning by offering high-quality School Improvement Services.

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