



## Bridgeport Public Schools

*For Immediate Release*

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## A Graduation Surprise

### Thousands of Dollars Awarded to Graduating Park City Seniors

**Bridgeport, CT – June 15, 2008** – On Monday, June 16th, at 1pm & 6pm at the Harbor Yard and Tuesday, June 17th, 7pm at the Klein Memorial in Bridgeport, Superintendent John J. Ramos Jr., will surprise thirteen graduating high school seniors from each of the three Bridgeport High Schools with Broad Prize college scholarships totaling \$125,000.

During the graduation exercises, Dr. Ramos will call the names of each recipient who will be awarded scholarships depending on whether they've enrolled in a two- or four-year institution. Students enrolled in a two-year institution will receive \$2,500 scholarships paid out as \$1,250 each year. Those attending four-year institutions, an amount of \$10,000 will be given over four years, \$2,500 paid each year. 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.

The Broad Foundation targets graduating seniors that not only have a financial need, but also have demonstrated an improvement in their grades over the course of their high school career. "We are proud to be members of the Broad Prize finalist family. This graduation surprise gives us the opportunity to shine a light on our academically-improved students, while giving them the resources they need to succeed in college. I am looking forward to surprising these students with their family, friends and teachers in attendance," commented superintendent Dr. Ramos.

"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."

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, Bridgeport Public Schools 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.

**Winners of each school will be announced during graduation at the following times and locations:**

<b>High School</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Harding High School	Harbor Yard Arena	Monday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	1 pm
Central High School	Harbor Yard Arena	Tuesday, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm
Bassick High School	Klein Memorial	Tuesday, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm

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](http://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 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](http://www.bridgeportedu.com).*

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