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PRESS RELEASE

BOSTON COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL AWARDED NATIONAL SILVER MEDAL STATUS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

March 5, 2009. Dorchester, MA. Boston Collegiate Charter School has been awarded Silver Medal Status for its high student achievement gains on the MCAS for the second consecutive year. The school continues to make significant gains in student achievement and finds opportunity to share its best practices with other schools.

New Leaders' for New Schools announced the Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) awards for charter schools today. The goal of EPIC is to identify and share effective classroom and school-wide practices that have contributed to significant one-year academic achievement gains among students in charter schools throughout the country. EPIC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Incentive Fund Program.

Using state assessment test scores and comparing gains made during the 2007-08 school year, Mathematica Policy Research, an independent nationally recognized research firm, has identified 21 schools with the strongest gains based on the one-year period. Boston Collegiate and other award-winning school will open their doors to help New Leaders and their partners determine the leadership and classroom practices that drive these impressive gains. EPIC will create a community of school leaders and practitioners learning from one another as they strive to drive student achievement.

Students at Boston Collegiate, an eleven year-old charter school located in Dorchester, have consistently achieved top academic results at all grade levels:

- For the second time in three years, BCCS 10th graders ranked **number one in the state** for its performance on the 2008 mathematics Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).
- This year, BCCS became **the only school in Massachusetts** to achieve a 100% passing rate on the 10th grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) for six consecutive years. On average, over 90% of 10th graders have scored Advanced or Proficient on the Math MCAS over the past six years.
- Over 99% of Boston Collegiate students have passed the English MCAS over the past six years. On average, 84% of 10th graders have scored Advanced or Proficient on the English MCAS exam over the past six years.
- 100% of current 10th graders have passed the MCAS Physics exam.

The awards will honor the outstanding staff for their achievements and compensate them for the time and expertise they will share during the creation of the case studies documenting their practices.

Boston Collegiate's mission is to prepare each student for college. In support of its mission, Boston Collegiate's teachers focus on literacy, constantly assess performance to improve instruction, and commit more time on a daily and annual basis to students in the classroom.

Boston Collegiate's rigorous and disciplined curriculum starts in the 5th grade. The structured middle school environment lays a solid foundation that enables its high school students to flourish. Teachers provide tailored approaches and individual support to students. High school leaders and teachers strongly emphasize analytical skills. The results also highlight the school's commitment to building a highly successful, highly accountable urban public school.

Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan notes that, "We have always asserted that our strong program rests on the work of our outstanding teachers and staff. Without them, nothing else matters. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share what we do on a national level. Our results demonstrate that a structured academic environment, high expectations combined with individual support, and an exceptional teaching staff lead to excellent results. While we are pleased with our scores, we remain focused, in every class, every day, on our goal of achieving 100% proficiency for all our students. We also strive to ensure that all of our graduates have a successful college experience after graduating from Boston Collegiate."

This year, Boston Collegiate celebrates that 100% of its senior class has been accepted into college for the sixth year in a row. So far, the senior class has earned 71 acceptances and over \$822,000 in merit scholarships. Drawing students from Boston families in which approximately 80% will be the first to graduate from college, Boston Collegiate demonstrates that all students can achieve and be ready to succeed in college.

Boston Collegiate Charter School, founded as South Boston Harbor Academy Charter School, was established in 1998 with the mission to prepare each student for college. The school has grown from 120 students in grades 5, 6, and 7 to 460 students in grades 5 through 12. The school offers an academically rigorous, college preparatory curriculum based on three pillars: a structured academic environment, high expectations combined with a tremendous amount of individual support, and an exceptional teaching staff. The school has received 3,688 applications for nine lotteries and has a waiting list of over 1,400 students. In 2001, the school's founders established a second charter school, the Edward Brooke Charter School, which currently serves 340 students in grades K – 8.

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If you would like additional information on this topic, or to schedule an interview with Kathleen Sullivan, please contact Joyce Kim McDonough at 617-265-1172, ext 291 or e-mail Joyce at jmcdonough@bostoncollegiate.org.