



Broad Scholar Cindy Legagneur's Remarks at the 2007 Broad Prize

Thank you Mayor Fenty.

Mr. and Mrs. Broad, Secretary Spellings, Members of Congress, Mayor Fenty and distinguished guests—I am honored to be here with you today.

I would like to begin by thanking everyone from The Broad Foundation for the opportunity to speak at this wonderful event.

I was born and raised in Boston—the only member of my family born in the United States. My parents immigrated to this country with my older brother in 1984, but because of financial constraints, they had to leave my 10 year-old sister in Haiti with family. They worked hard to begin a new life in a new country. My mother worked as a nursing assistant and my father worked as a cab driver. I watched my parents struggle to give me and my siblings a better life than they had. They worked six days a week, often double shifts. But my parents always instilled in me the importance of education and hard work.

Although neither of my parents went to college, they believed in me and supported my education. During my freshman year of high school in Boston Public Schools, I struggled with my grades but through the help of my teachers, the support of my parents and my determination to succeed in school, I gradually improved my grades. Even though I worked a full-time job every summer during high school to help my parents financially and worked 16 hours a week during my senior year, I increased my GPA from a 2.2 to 3.86 and graduated in the top 15 percent of my high school class.

I applied and was accepted to George Washington University, becoming the first person in my family to go to college. But when I was accepted, I had to figure out how I would pay for college. I can still remember how excited I was when I learned I had won a \$10,000 Broad Prize scholarship. I knew I would be able to go to college.

I am now a senior at George Washington University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in statistics. This summer, I had an internship at Envision, EMI, a non-profit that creates educational programming for elementary, middle, and high school students.

As a senior, I now have to make important decisions about my future. I plan to pursue a career in data and survey analysis – hopefully in the field of education.

I stand here today because The Broad Foundation helped me continue to reach my full potential. But, becoming a Broad Prize Scholar meant more to me than just financial assistance. It was and is a source of pride for me and my family and I strive to be the Scholar that The Broad Foundation saw in me.

I would like to again thank The Broad Foundation. Your generous support has helped me to achieve my goals and continue to grow as a person. I hope to make you proud. Thank you.