

The 2011 Broad Prize

Announcement of Winner

September 20, 2011 ▪ The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.



Announcement of the Winner of the 2011 Broad Prize

The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Gregory McGinity, Managing Director for Policy, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation

Vincent Gray, Mayor, Washington, D.C.

Eugene Fanfan, 2008 Broad Prize Scholarship Recipient

Eli Broad, Founder, The Broad Foundations

John Legend, GRAMMY® Award Winning Musician and Education Reform Activist

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

Hugh Hattabaugh, Superintendent, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, N.C.

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

GREGORY MCGINITY: Good morning. I'm Gregory McGinity. I'm the managing director of policy for The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, and I'm very excited to welcome you here to the Library of Congress for the 10th anniversary of The Broad Prize, and the awarding of the 2011 Broad Prize.

Many of you have been with us for previous Broad Prize announcements, and we're delighted to have you back here again. And I also want to make sure that we welcome everyone that's watching remotely over the Internet today as well, on our webcast.

As you know, The Broad Prize honors urban school districts that demonstrate the strongest student achievement and improvement, while narrowing achievement gaps between income and ethnic groups. And we are pleased to have a number of distinguished guests today, starting with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who, as he has for the last two years, will announce this year's winner in just a little bit.

We're also pleased that John Legend, a Grammy Award winning singer who has taken on the cause of education reform, is here today to deliver our keynote address.

And we're also pleased to have the mayor of the District of Columbia, Vincent Gray, with us as well.

And, of course, we will hear from Eli Broad, the founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, and the founder of the prize that we are awarding today.

And we're especially delighted to have a number of members of Congress with us as well. I want to thank Congressman George Miller of California, the Ranking Member on the Education and the Workforce Committee, for joining us.

I want to extend a very warm welcome to Congressman Dan Lungren from California, The

Broad Foundation's home state, who is the distinguished Chairman of the House Administrations Committee.

And I'd also like to welcome Congresswoman Frederica Wilson—a former educator and a member of the Miami-Dade School Board. So thank you all for coming.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: And I'd like to ask a number of the distinguished members of the jury that selects The Broad Prize winner each year to please stand.

We're thrilled to have former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley with us.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: And Andy Stern, president emeritus of the Service Employees International Union. Thank you.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: I want to thank you and the rest of the jurors for the role that you've played in today's decision. And I know choosing the winner was definitely not easy.

This spring, a 21-member review board of education experts helped select our four Broad Prize finalists. And they're all here today. If you could please stand.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: And I'd also like to thank our Broad Prize partners who are with us as well today. If you could please stand. From MPR Associates, which manages our data collection and analysis.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: RMC Research Corporation, which leads our site visits to the districts.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: And Scholarship America, which manages the scholarship selection and disbursement process.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: They're great partners, and we can't do the work we do for The Broad Prize without them.

And I'm also happy to see Alvin Wilbanks here. He was the superintendent from last year's Broad Prize winner Gwinnett County Public Schools. Thank you for coming, Alvin.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: And finally—our most special guests of honor, and the reason we're all here, we're joined by officials from this year's Broad Prize finalist school districts: Broward County in Florida, Charlotte-Mecklenburg in North Carolina, Miami-Dade County in Florida, and Ysleta in Texas. Thank you all very much.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: A little over 10 years ago, The Broad Prize was but an idea. And we're excited that now our nation can point to those urban school districts that stand out among the largest urban districts in the country.

And if you'll turn your attention to the screen behind me, we'll take a brief look back over the past decade.

[Video presentation.]

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: It's now my pleasure to introduce the mayor of our host city, Vincent Gray. Vincent Gray's election last year as the mayor of the District of Columbia adds another chapter to a very distinguished career in public service to the citizens of this city.

As mayor, one of his top priorities is ensuring a quality education for all children in the district. But Mayor Gray also personally embodies the value of education. Although his parents never attended high school, Mayor Gray graduated high school when he was just 16 years old.

And although he was scouted by two major league baseball teams, he instead chose to continue his education and study psychology at George Washington University. He remains dedicated to giving every child in the district an equal opportunity to attend an excellent school. Ladies and gentlemen, the mayor of the District of Columbia, Vincent Gray.

[Applause.]

MAYOR VINCENT GRAY: Thank you very much, and good morning. Thank you, Mr. McGinity,

for such a nice introduction. And, yes, over all these years, I still wonder what would have happened if I had pursued a baseball career.

[Laughter.]

MAYOR VINCENT GRAY: But I have no regrets about what I have done. To be able to be a native of this city and to be involved in working to improve outcomes in the city has been an absolutely exhilarating experience, and frankly, I suspect that everyone in this room agrees that there is no more important issue in America than the education of our children. Because if we get that one right, there are so many other things that will be right again about America.

I want to thank The Broad Foundation for being here, again, in the District of Columbia for this outstanding awards program, and for 10 years of recognizing outstanding school districts across the nation with an incentive of a million dollars—but even more so the psychic satisfaction of knowing that you are the best in the nation.

And infusing this effort with positive incentives—it means that we are going in the right direction. I want to thank Mr. And Mrs. Broad, and I want to thank The Broad Foundation for what you have done in order to open these opportunities up to our children and to our school districts across the nation. How about a big hand for The Broad Foundation?

[Applause.]

MAYOR VINCENT GRAY: Also I want to congratulate the finalists this year, and I want to congratulate all those who have won in the past. I looked at that distinguished list of winners over the last several years, and—yes, I admit to it, I'm absolutely envious. I am looking at that list and trying to figure out what year the District of Columbia will be on there.

And I want to serve notice to everybody else in America—the District of Columbia is coming for you because we intend to be the absolute best school district in America. Thank you all

very much.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: Thank you, Mayor Gray. We hope and expect that the District of Columbia will be a finalist and a winner soon.

While The Broad Prize recognizes school districts, the \$1 million in prize money—the \$550,000 to the winner and the \$150,000 to each of the three finalist districts—goes directly to students for college scholarships. And over the past 10 years, as the video indicated, 1,044 students have shared \$12 million in Broad Prize scholarships.

But what's unique about these scholarships is that they're not awarded to straight-A students who have access to many scholarships, but instead are awarded to students who have improved over their high school career and have financial need.

And today, we are pleased to be joined by one student who has earned every penny of his Broad Prize scholarship. Eugene Fanfan is a 2008 graduate of the Miami County public schools. Today he's a senior at the University of South Florida in Tampa, studying criminology and sociology. And we invited him here today to tell us about his education journey. So please join me in welcoming Broad Prize scholar Eugene Fanfan.

[Applause.]

EUGENE FANFAN: Thank you, Mr. McGinity. First, I would like to thank The Broad Foundation for this amazing scholarship program, and giving students like me the resources to reach a higher level of education. I'd also like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to share my story today.

One of the quotes that I live by is, "Life would not be life if one did not face various obstacles,

and numerous trials and tribulations." When I was nine, my mother unexpectedly passed away and I was left to be raised in a single-parent household with four other siblings.

My father struggled financially, working long, hard hours in a juice factory just to take care of the house and the family. As the youngest child, the loss of my mother weighed heavily on my life, knowing that the first woman I fell in love with would not see me become a man. But, I managed to make it through.

I improved my high school GPA from a 2.5 to a 3.5, graduating from William H. Turner Tech from Miami-Dade County and earning a scholarship to the University of South Florida.

Attending the University of South Florida has been one of the greatest things to happen to me. I came to university through Freshman Summer Institute, which paved the way for me to network and meet new people.

In 2009, I became a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. In 2010 and 2011, I served as a Community Service Chair for the Black Student Union, and also as the Treasurer for Club Creole.

I am the current Parliamentarian as well as the Community Service Chair for the Theta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

I am now a senior majoring in criminology and sociology with a GPA of a 3.3. I will soon graduate two semesters early, December 9th. You can tell I'm counting days.

[Applause.]

EUGENE FANFAN: I hope to become a deputy in the Hillsborough County Sherriff's Office and move up the ranks to become a homicide detective.

The Broad Prize Scholarship has been such a blessing to me because if it was not for the scholarship I certainly would not be here today, and I certainly would not have the adequate funds to help me through college.

My faith, resilience and continued support of my family have been a driving force behind all my choices. I strive to be great in all that I do so I can create a better tomorrow for myself. If my mother were here today, she would be proud of everything I have accomplished. She is what motivates me, and this very moment, I can feel her watching down on me and listening. Thank you.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: Thank you, Eugene. We wish you great luck in the short senior year you have left. And good luck in all the things that you'll do in the future.

Eli and Edythe Broad have a passionate belief that public education is the cornerstone of what makes America great, and enables every child to achieve his or her full potential.

When the Broad Foundation started its work on education reform in 1999, Eli and Edye were driven to improve America's public schools because they knew the future of our country depended on our ability to prepare our children for college careers and life.

And one of the first programs they started was The Broad Prize, to celebrate successes in public education and recognize the urban school systems that were making progress improving student achievement and narrowing persistent gaps among poor and minority students—children who are too often left behind and don't have equal opportunities.

Today, the Broads' commitment to K-12 education is stronger than ever. Their investments in school systems around the country seek to create the system-wide conditions that empower teachers, push resources to the classroom, introduce smart innovations, and encourage

America's most talented professionals to serve in public education.

It's been my honor and privilege to work for Mr. and Mrs. Broad for the past eight years. So will you please join me in welcoming one half of the dynamic duo, Mr. Eli Broad.

[Applause.]

ELI BROAD: Hi. Thank you, Gregory. I'm really delighted to see so many of you here today. Some of you were here last year, the year before, and I'm glad to see so many new faces. And I want to thank Secretary Duncan and Mayor Gray for joining us.

It's fitting that this 10th anniversary celebration be at the Library of Congress. Washington was where we announced the first Broad Prize a decade ago. And you know? Each year since, I've grown more excited about this announcement.

We started The Broad Prize for four different reasons. One—we wanted to restore the public's confidence in our nation's public schools by highlighting successful districts. Two—we wanted to reward districts that improve academic achievement and close the gap between income and ethnic groups. Third, we wanted the prize to create competition and provide incentive for districts to improve. And lastly, we wanted to showcase the best practices of districts that were improving so that others could learn from their success.

Even though we're glad to be in the 10th year of this award, the reality is, in the last decade America's schools have not come far enough. The four districts we honor today have made the greatest progress of urban school systems nationwide. They've narrowed achievement gaps, raised the achievement of poor and minority students, and improved overall academic success.

But as their leaders will tell you, they have much more work ahead of them to move the performance of all of your students to advanced levels and graduation. And as much work as

these districts face, the hill is far, far steeper for their peer urban districts—namely, for dozens and dozens of other large, city districts.

So we must guard against becoming complacent. We cannot take our eye off the ball of doing everything possible to enable students of all backgrounds and urban areas to achieve at high levels.

What has most surprised and, yes, disappointed us about education reform is the slow pace in which it occurs. I know most of you here share my impatience for improving your schools. But we have to wake up and collectively make the necessary changes to prepare every child—not just 60 percent or 70 percent—but every child for life. We can't afford to wait another 10 years.

But I'm delighted at the same time to hear from students like Eugene, who are pursuing higher education. I'm encouraged by the four districts we honor today for making progress that is markedly better than their peers. For these reasons, our foundation decided this year to endow the prize with \$40 million to ensure that the prize will continue for many, many years, and that thousands more scholarships will be available for students.

In the last decade we identified nine, and today, 10, urban school districts that have demonstrated this steadfast route forward. At the same time, we've seen some, but not all, public charter models reveal another route to moving ahead. Keep your eyes open this fall—we may soon have a way to recognize America's best and most successful charter schools.

Now, it's my great privilege to introduce this year's keynote speaker. John Legend was a child prodigy. By the age of four, he was a remarkable classical and gospel pianist, having learned to play piano from his grandmother. He grew up singing in the church choir in Springfield, Ohio. At the age of 16, he graduated from high school with great honors. He went on to major in English at the University of Pennsylvania.

You may be surprised to learn that John Legend's first job after college was not in the music business. He worked for the Boston Consulting Group. John released his first studio album in 2004, and the rest, as they say, is really history.

This year he won a Grammy for "Shine", a beautiful song he wrote and recorded for the soundtrack of the documentary *Waiting for Superman*. Over the years he's won nine Grammys, and this year he was the most nominated artist with 10 nominations.

But we asked him here today not because of his extraordinary musical talent, but because he has a great interest in advancing the education of children. So with that, let's give a big hand to John Legend.

[Applause.]

JOHN LEGEND: Thank you. Thank you to Mr. Broad for introducing me and for convening us all here together, and for your continued support for education across the country.

I'm really honored to be here among all of you. I know you all are doing all the hard work in trying to move our school systems forward across the country, and really I'm just a cheerleader. I'm here to support you and do whatever I can to help out.

Today we're here to celebrate the winners, the best of the best of the American school districts, to show that progress in public education is real and is achievable. And before I say anything else, I want to congratulate our four finalists—Broward, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Miami-Dade and Ysleta. What you've done so far is truly inspirational, so congratulations to you.

[Applause.]

JOHN LEGEND: Now, unfortunately as we know, a sad reality underlies today's celebration

of progress. The reality is that our education system here in the U.S. is still in dire need of repair. You all heard the statistics. We've all seen the scores, how our nation has dropped into the middle of the pack when it comes to developing countries.

And we know that our schools are literally and figuratively crumbling and we're not giving far too many kids, especially low-income kids, the chance to succeed, to make it through high school, let alone college.

Consider that just 15 percent of our schools are responsible for 50 percent of the dropout students, and that those schools are concentrated in our poorest communities, the communities most in need of the transformative power of education. These dropout factories are perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Now, I know none of you are shocked to hear this. We wouldn't be here if we didn't have major problems to solve. But when we come together to celebrate successes and discuss challenges in education, we inevitably cover topics of race and poverty as well.

It is impossible to disentangle a serious discussion of public education from these issues. They're inextricably linked. And as it stands, where a child is born, what color that child is, and/or how much money that child's parents make, often determines the quality of his or her education and life prospects. Now that isn't right, that isn't fair. That is, unfortunately, the status quo in America.

Now I first examined this issue of education through a lens of poverty. In 2007 I founded an organization called the Show Me Campaign. We aim to break the cycle of poverty through proven solutions. And it quickly became clear that in America the single best tool for alleviating domestic poverty is education. And that's why the Show Me Campaign spends most of its energy fighting for equal access to quality education in the United States.

We live in one of the wealthiest and most powerful nations on earth, yet a good education

remains a privilege for some when it should be a right for all. The calendar may say 2011, but it often seems like we're in a different era when we examine who does and who doesn't receive a quality education in America.

I have to echo the remarks of a famous politician, who took some huge political risks to champion civil rights in the thick of the 1960s battle. In between the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, President Lyndon Baines Johnson delivered the 1965 commencement address at Howard University right here in D.C. He called the speech "To Fulfill These Rights."

And acknowledging the importance of civil rights legislation, Johnson stressed that these newly enshrined rights were only the foundation for the work to be done. In his words: "This is the next and the more profound stage of the battle for civil rights. We seek not just freedom, but opportunity. We seek not just legal equity, but human ability; not just equality as a right and a theory, but equality as a fact and equality as a result."

This call to action rings true today. And frankly, his aspirations remain unfulfilled. And education inequality lies at the heart of the problem. I believe that education is the civil rights issue of our generation, and we must strive to make equality in education a reality, not just an aspirational slogan.

And that is what The Broad Prize is about. It's about rewarding the districts making real progress towards closing the achievement gap and offering a good education to all students. We're not there yet. But we're getting closer by promoting these scalable solutions with the potential to transform the U.S. education system—solutions that may transfer a good education from a privilege into an inviolable right.

Congratulations again to the four finalist school districts. I think we can all agree that your aggregate success is a result of many individuals' creativity, skill and determination. Thank you to those individuals, and to the superintendents, principals, teachers, parents and community

members who have played an integral role in your district's success.

You've all done remarkable work to better serve your students, to put them on a different path in life, and in many cases, give them the tools to break free from the cycle of poverty. And now many of your students will have the opportunity to advance even further with the generous support of The Broad Foundation's scholarship funds.

I encourage you to keep innovating and achieving, and I hope that you will all continue to appear at this ceremony year after year as you make further strides in your districts. And as someone who attended DCPS, I hope we'll see the mayor and Kaya Henderson up here next year too. We're looking for you.

[Applause.]

JOHN LEGEND: But I know there's some suspense in here and I'm in the way.

[Laughter.]

So I've done enough to prolong your wait. It's time for me to pass the mic. We're going to find out who won. Thank you again, and good luck.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: Thank you very much, John. Our next speaker is a good friend and a familiar face to all of you. As President Obama's Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan has worked tirelessly to help reform American education policy.

His groundbreaking work on Race to the Top has encouraged states to compete for federal dollars, but more importantly, implement better education policies. For example, in just two years 44 states have adopted the Common Core standards that will better ensure that more

children will have access to a rigorous academic curriculum.

And Secretary Duncan is turning his federal attention on the 5,000 lowest performing schools considered the dropout factories, so that students in the toughest circumstances can have access to the education opportunities they deserve.

Three or four times a week, he is out visiting schools and seeing what's going on on the ground, and he can often be found shooting hoops with students.

And for the past two years, he's been with us to announce the winner of The Broad Prize, and we are so pleased that he has joined us again this year. So ladies and gentlemen, please welcome U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: I do stand between you and the winner, so I'll be about an hour, hour and a half—take your time.

[Laughter.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: No, no. Couple real quick points and we'll get to the winner. First of all, another hand for Eugene, please, for all of his extraordinary commitments.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: These scholarships are life transforming. I'm sure the Broad family is so proud to support you and so many like you. And I have to tell you, it took me five years to graduate from college. You're doing it in three. So you're way ahead of where I was, and I wish you all the best going forward.

I know I'm preaching to the choir here, but the stakes are extraordinary. We can't have great cities if we don't have great school systems. I see this through a couple different lenses.

First, I absolutely agree with John. This is the civil rights issue of our generation. If you can ride in the front of the bus, but you can't read, you don't have an ability to function in society. You're still not truly free. And we have a long, long way to go there.

Secondly, this is an economic imperative. We have so many countries today that are simply out-educating us. Those countries that out-educate us are going to out-compete us. Jobs are going to go to where the knowledge workers are, and in a globally competitive, knowledge-based economy, if we don't up our game at a faster rate than ever before, our country's in real trouble.

And Alma Powell is here. She and her husband have done extraordinary work. But this is an issue of national security as well. Some of you may not know that today 75 percent of our young people can't qualify for the military. They're either academically unprepared, physically unfit or have a criminal background.

So whichever lens you see it—as a civil rights issue, as an economic imperative, as an issue of national security, or all three, the work that you guys are doing in this room is fighting not just for your communities and your cities, but for the country. And I know how tough this work is.

I want to commend you for the real progress—the real progress you're making. These are tough economic times. Obviously our children have one chance to get a good education. We can't afford to wait two, three, four years for better economic times. We have to do more with less. We have to get better faster. And you guys are demonstrating what's possible every day. So again, please give a round of applause for all four of our finalists here today.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: Secondly, I just want to thank Eli so much, and his wife. There are so many other things, much easier issues you could be dealing with, or no issues you could be dealing with at this point in your career. But your laser-like focus on education and public education has absolutely helped to move the country. And days like this are absolutely fun and exciting and rewarding. We need to shine a spotlight on success; we need to shine a spotlight on excellence.

But he's never been afraid to take on those tough issues. The idea of leadership—we need more great superintendents, we need more great principals, we need more folks in district administrations who can help out. So whether it's The Broad Superintendents Academy or The Broad Residency, the Broad family has created this pipeline of talent that I was a huge recipient of and beneficiary of in Chicago and now in D.C.

And you can't have a great business, you can't have a great sports team, you can't have a great not-for-profit or great education system if you don't have talent. You guys have taken that on front and center.

Lots of folks shy away from tough issues like governance. And we love to point a finger at management being weak or unions being obstinate, but no one wants to talk about the challenges of governance. And Eli's taking that on front and center.

It's a difficult conversation; it's hard for folks to get their arms around it. But what you see in urban school districts around the country, the average tenure of a superintendent being 2.5, 2.6 years—that's not the union's fault. That's a structural problem. And if we don't get that better and have fine, great talent—nurture that talent and keep them in leadership, we're never going to see the kinds of progress that districts here have had.

Gwinnett County's superintendent's been there how many years—16? Not surprisingly, they're very high performing. You get great talent; you keep it. That doesn't happen in public education, and we need to continue to push that.

And Eli's done a lot of things in his life, gone a lot of places, but he never forgot where he came from. And focusing on Detroit, which is arguably the worst public school system in America—what's gone on there for children for far too long has been an absolute travesty. And his commitment to seeing that, like D.C., rise from the ashes and do something very different gives me great hope.

So please give a round of applause for Eli and for his wife for their extraordinary commitment.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: And finally, I just want to quickly highlight the four finalists. And all four have been finalists before, so this is not an overnight miracle. This has been a lot of hard work year after year, sticking to it. And again, in good economic times or bad I just have so much respect for that progress.

If I could ask the team for Broward County to please stand for a moment.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: In Broward County last year, achievement gaps between Hispanic and white students in reading and math were among the smallest in Florida. And Broward teachers assess students frequently to determine whether students understand a concept or if they have to try a different approach to teach it. So thank you so much for your leadership.

Will the team from Charlotte-Mecklenburg please stand?

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools narrowed more ethnic achievement gaps faster than other districts in North Carolina, particularly for African-American students. And through a strategic staffing initiative, Charlotte-Mecklenburg sends its best teachers and principals to its struggling schools. Thank you so much.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: Can I ask our team from Miami-Dade to please stand?

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: Miami-Dade County Public Schools last year outperformed other Florida districts that served students with similar family incomes in reading and math at all school levels. The district uses a comprehensive online data warehouse with the results of assessments that enable educators to see how a school, class, teacher or student is doing, and the data is the basis for every conversation in Miami-Dade. Thank you so much.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: And finally, could our team from Ysleta please stand.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: In your district, right on the Mexico border, a staggering 84 percent of high school seniors took the SAT—the highest participation rate of all 75 districts eligible for The Broad Prize. The district starts talking with families about the SAT in the sixth grade, and pays for the PSAT for all students. Thank you so much for your leadership.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN: And without further ado, let's find out who the winner is in this 10th year.

And the winner is Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

[Applause.]

HUGH HATTABAUGH: Thank you very much. This prize recognizes the work of many people in our district, and one who is no longer with us, but is here today. And that is Dr. Peter Gorman, just behind me to my right. Pete, thank you for the strong leadership you provided during your five years with us. This honor recognizes your success as a leader. Thank you.

[Applause.]

HUGH HATTABAUGH: We also thank our board of education for its vision and leadership. The board's commitment to making CMS great is an important factor in our success. Their theory of action is a framework that has brought us to this point and will continue to drive us forward.

This award recognizes the dedication and commitment of all of our CMS teachers, principals and other district staff. Educating students is not easy. It's been particularly difficult over the past three years because of the continued financial turmoil and budget cuts.

But my hat goes off to our teachers, our principals and other employees who have not been deterred by hard times. They have persevered; they have come to work day after day, in hard times and good times, and prepared to do whatever our students need.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools also enjoys a broad base of community support. Public officials, private citizens, and a wide range of organizations have helped make CMS an outstanding public school district by giving time and treasure to help kids learn.

I would be remiss in not thanking The Broad Foundation for the gracious gift of 550,000 in scholarships for our worthy students. This is a great day for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, our students, our staff and our whole community. Thank you.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: So there are a couple of special guests, a couple of members of Congress who wanted to pay their respects and congratulate the districts.

Our first member of Congress is the son of a kindergarten teacher and elementary school principal. Senator Lamar Alexander from Tennessee chairs the Senate Republican Conference and serves on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that oversees education.

As governor of Tennessee, he was an aggressive reformer and advocate for his state schools. And from 1991 to 1993, he was the Secretary of Education in President George Herbert Walker Bush's administration. So please join with me in welcoming Senator Lamar Alexander.

[Applause.]

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER: First, congratulations to Charlotte-Mecklenburg. But second, congratulations to all four of the finalists.

I just have one thought to say. I spent a lot of time working with Arne Duncan. I think he's a terrific United States Education Secretary. I think he's done a very good job.

[Applause.]

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER: He and I are both proud of The Broad Foundation and the

leadership that the Broad family has taken over the years to help put the spotlight where the spotlight ought to be.

The President and Arne have stuck their neck out on a few occasions and taken some risks that weren't always popular with some people who helped elect them, and they did that on behalf of the schoolchildren of this country. And we're working together to try to see if we can help create a better environment to help schools—100,000 public schools in this country—succeed.

Now there's a lot of talk about jobs in Washington and there's some talk about schools. And in a way, Washington talk about schools and jobs is alike in the sense we can help create a better environment for schools to be better, but we can't really make them better from here. That's why this spotlight that The Broad Foundation places on these four outstanding school districts and on other local activities is so important.

A lot of progress has been made in the last 10 years. Arne was talking about how important that is to our country's future; it absolutely is. We have—we still produce about 23 percent of all the wealth in the world in the United States, and we only have about 5 percent of all the people in the United States.

But the rest of the world is figuring out that their brains are about the same as ours, and they're using that brainpower to kind of get the standard of living that we have had. And so all of us have to work together to make our schools better.

Over the last 10 years, states and local school districts have created higher standards; they've worked together to develop tests to those standards. They're working together to develop accountability systems, and now because of No Child Left Behind, there are report cards that are local that tell us more about the students.

I think the President and Arne and I agree that it's time to transfer more of that accountability

to the place where this spotlight is—on the local school districts—and that we have the kind of environment for better schools and outstanding teachers today because of a lot of hard work.

So I am here to make sure you know that on a bipartisan basis that all of us in Congress, whether we're Republicans or Democrats, are proud of the four districts, are proud of all the competitors. We like working with the education secretary, and we honor the Broad family for what they've contributed to American education. Thank you.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: Our next speaker is a good friend, and the former superintendent of the Denver school system. So he very much knows what it's like to be in the trenches. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet is also a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, where he continues to push for bold reforms that support great teaching. So ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Senator Michael Bennet from Colorado.

[Applause.]

SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET: It's nice to see so many old friends. I can recognize many of you from the backs of your heads. And thank you for having me here today. I also want to say that we are very lucky to have Lamar Alexander in the United States Senate, and he has set a good example for me by being brief today, as he always does. I didn't even have time to write my speech.

I want to first thank Eli Broad, and Mrs. Broad, for the work that they have done across the country, but most especially for what they did to help us in the Denver Public Schools.

The Broad Foundation was there from the very first day I walked into that job, having had no experience in K-12 education, and they recognized my lack of knowledge. Let's put it that way.

[Laughter.]

Actually one of the first case studies I read was about Charlotte-Mecklenburg, back then. But they've been with us year after year after year. They're still with the district. We can't seem to get on The Broad Prize's list, but just for the record, when Eli Broad and I started working together the Denver Public Schools was dead last in student growth in the state of Colorado. This year it is first in student growth in the state of Colorado.

[Applause.]

SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET: Thirty percent more kids that are our graduates are in college today than just five years ago. So that's—if anybody thinks that you can't make a difference in public education, all you have to do is look at the work that Eli Broad and The Broad Foundation have done all around this country.

It's not as fast as we would all want, the quality is not what we would all want, but we are on the verge, I think, of tipping the political balance here to be able to create scale of change all across the country. And when the story is written about that, the name Broad is going to be a very prominent part of it.

I also want to congratulate Pete Gorman, who—where is he? My pal, for winning today and for all of the work that the principals, and teachers, and parents in the community of Charlotte-Mecklenburg did to make this possible.

Listen, I'll get off the stage. But while we are meeting today, we have a gross domestic product that's actually the same size as it was before we went into this recession. Think about that. Our economy is producing what we were producing before this economic downturn occurred, but we're doing it with 14 million fewer people who are structurally unemployed.

Twenty-two percent of the children—a fifth of the children in our country today are living in poverty. And for the first time in our country's history, median family income has declined for a decade, and that decline is continuing.

And I don't need to tell people here that that 22 percent, that fifth of our children living in poverty, stand a nine in 100 chance of graduating with a college degree if we don't do things differently.

We have politics right now in this town that are unworthy of the aspirations that we have for our kids and our grandkids. It's unworthy of the hard work that all of you are doing every single day.

An exception to that is our great Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who's sitting here. Because Arne knows that you can't solve hard things with bumper stickers. And you can't solve hard things by manufacturing problems rather than dealing with the ones that are in front of us.

I heard Eli say earlier in his remarks that we can't have another 10 years in this trajectory. I believe that's very true. We can't consume the first two decades of this new century with declining family income, with joblessness, and with an education system that's not producing the outcomes that we want for kids, and expect to have a country that we recognize, a democracy and an economy that can compete in the 21st century.

This is why the work you are doing is so important, and it is so vital. And the only thing I would ask of you is that you make sure your voices are heard in the halls of Congress, and that you have people's attention on the work that you're doing and the reason that you're doing it.

There is no place in America farther away from the classrooms of America than the committee rooms on Capitol Hill. And that's why we need all of you, and that's why we are so blessed to have Eli Broad. Thank you for having me today.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: So now, a very special guest—I want to welcome Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. She's a longtime supporter of The Broad Prize, and for the last 24 years she has represented San Francisco, whose school district was a Broad Prize finalist in 2005.

She's responsible for making the Library of Congress available to us for today's events, and I'd like to thank her very much for hosting us. So please welcome Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

[Applause.]

REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI: Thank you all very much for what you are doing, the most important job of all—preparing our children to do their very best. I'm pleased to bring the greetings of the House of Representatives, joining our senators in paying our respects to the work that all of you do.

Congratulations to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and Hugh Hattabaugh for your success. But all of the nominees were wonderful, wonderful winners because they were winners for the children.

It's an honor to be here with the secretary, who's results-oriented for our kids, and with the mayor. I know John Legend was here and he's devoted his considerable celebrity to this most important job, our children and their education, and their prospects for the future.

It's hard to think of anyone in the history of our country who has really done more than Eli and Edye Broad in this regard. Eli and Edye have been a success at everything they have done—at growing our economy, creating jobs, building homes to build communities.

I've seen it in California so I've known for decades how committed they are to our country, one family at a time, one child at a time. Now whether it's the arts or science, whatever it is, they know that innovation, imagination, all of that has an important starting place—in the classroom.

So, Eli Broad, to you and Edye, congratulations on so much, for being really such patriots for our country by contributing to it in so many, many ways. Congratulations, Eli Broad.

[Applause.]

REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI: I know that there are many education advocates and reformers here today, but I too want to acknowledge Eugene Fanfan for his leadership as well. Thank you for your leadership.

[Applause.]

REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI: Again, I could name so many of you that I see—right where I see the lights.

It's really important that we're here at the Library of Congress. Gregory, thank you so much for acknowledging that we always make this a priority. When you come it's a very special day, and thank you for your leadership.

But it's appropriate that we're in the Library of Congress, because as you know that's Mr. Jefferson's library started with his books. And he believed that essential to the democracy was an informed, educated population. In fact, he said, "Education can be relied on for ameliorating the condition, promoting the virtue, and advancing the happiness of man."

In 2011, Eli and Edye Broad are making that vision a reality. He also said, "Educate and inform the whole mass of people, enable them to see that it is in their interest to preserve peace and order and they will preserve them. They are the only sure reliance for the

preservation of our liberty." Thomas Jefferson spoke so much about education connected to our democracy, and that was more than 200 years ago.

Two-hundred years later, Edye and Eli are living that—making that reality possible for many, many more people. They have said, "Public education is the key civil rights issue of the 21st century," and indeed it is. It enables people to hearken back to our founders: life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, the innovation of our country, our competitiveness, the aspirations of our children, the vision of our founders, the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. All of it—education is central to all of it.

So we're very proud of our president and the commitment that he has made to results for our children as, of course, manifested in the leadership of Secretary Duncan. We're very proud of the competition, all of the nominees. We take pride in San Francisco being a nominee a few years ago when the crowd was much smaller—my, how you have grown, Eli—and we needed bigger auditoriums all the time.

We wanted to win, but we considered ourselves very fortunate to be recognized. And that's what I'm here to do—to recognize those who have done so well, all of you who care so much and act upon that concern about how central education is. It's key to the aspirations, again, of our children. It's key to the competitiveness of our country. It's key in the strength of our democracy.

So thank you, Eli Broad, for being such a great patriot, for educating our children, strengthening our democracy, and keeping America number one in every possible way. Congratulations to all the nominees, a special congratulations to the winner, and a big thank you to all of you for what you do for our children.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: Thank you, Congresswoman Pelosi.

An event like this has lots of help behind the scenes, so I want to thank very much the Librarian of Congress and his team for all the help that they gave us in putting on today's event. I want to congratulate again Charlotte-Mecklenburg and all of the work that they've done, and all of the finalists.

[Applause.]

GREGORY MCGINITY: So as we conclude, please be sure to pick up a 2011 Broad Prize brochure as you leave. It details, the specific policies and systems that led to student achievement gains in these four districts. And we very much hope you'll join us next year in New York City, when we'll announce the winner of the 2012 Broad Prize on October 23rd.

And that concludes today's event. Thank you all for coming.

[Applause.]

###