
Winner Announcement Transcript

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The Museum of Modern Art

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Announcement of the Winner of the 2012 Broad Prize

*The Museum of Modern Art
New York City*

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GREGORY MCGINITY:

Good morning. I'm Gregory McGinity, managing director for policy at The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation in Los Angeles. Welcome to The Museum of Modern Art for the announcement of the 2012 Broad Prize for Urban Education. This marks our 11th Broad Prize and our fourth time back here at MoMA. We're delighted to be joined by many distinguished leaders here in New York City that have come to us from all around the country, and we're webcasting today's announcement and it will be archived at broadprize.org. We'd like to extend a welcome to our remote audience that is joining us as well.

The \$1 million Broad Prize was started in 2002 by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad to honor the urban school districts that have demonstrated the strongest achievement and improvement while reducing gaps among low-income and minority students.

We are pleased to have a number of distinguished guests with us here today. Starting with our speakers here on the stage, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is joining us for the fourth year. We will be joined shortly by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. And we are fortunate to have a distinguished keynote speaker today, Admiral Michael Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And of course we're joined by Eli and Edythe Broad, whose generosity and passion for public education and students have made today's celebration possible.

Each year 75 of our nation's largest urban school districts that serve large percentages of high-minority, high-poverty student populations are eligible for The Broad Prize. This past spring, a 13-member review board of education researchers, policy leaders and practitioners examined enormous amounts of student achievement data on the 75 eligible school districts and selected the four finalists who we have here with us today. We have a number of those review board members with us and I'd ask them to stand and please be recognized.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

And from their good work, an 11-member selection jury of leaders from government, business and public service chose this year's Broad Prize winner. We also have several members of the jury panel with us as well. If you could please stand and be recognized.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

I want to note for the record that The Broad Foundation does not select the finalists or the winner, so we are indeed indebted to the members of the review board and the jury for their great work and assistance. And we could not award The Broad Prize without the help of our many partners, including those at MPR Associates, which manages the data collection and analysis; RMC Research Corporation, which leads the site visits to the urban school districts, and Scholarship America, which manages the scholarship selection and disbursement process. I'd like to have representatives from our partner organizations to please stand as well.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

We also have four former superintendents of Broad Prize winners as well. Pete Gorman, who led last year's winning school district in Charlotte-Mecklenburg; Joel Klein, who was the former chancellor of New York City Department of Education; Tom Payzant, who headed the Boston Public Schools; and Alvin Wilbanks, who is the superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools. Dennis Walcott, the current chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, is with us as well. So welcome to you all.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

And the reason that we're here today are the four finalist school districts. We've been joined by a good contingent from the Corona-Norco Unified School District in Southern California, the Houston Independent School District, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the School District of Palm Beach County in Florida. So will the teams from these four districts please rise and be recognized.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

The Broad Prize is the largest education award in the country, but while we recognize the most improved school systems in America, the prize money, \$1 million, goes to students who attend schools in these districts. The winning district will receive \$550,000 in college scholarships for their students and the three finalist districts will each receive \$150,000 in college scholarships. And over the past 11 years, nearly 1,100 students have shared \$14 million in Broad Prize scholarships.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

And these scholarships are different than traditional scholarship awards and those that often go to straight-A students. The Broad Prize scholarship recognizes students who have improved their grades during their high school careers and who also have financial need. And we're joined today by one of our Broad Prize scholars. This is the best part of my job, when we learn a little bit about great student success.

Katrina Gonzales graduated from Northside Independent School District in Texas in 2008 and this past May she graduated from Amherst College in Massachusetts with a bachelor's degree in history. We've invited her here today to tell us a little bit about her academic journey and what she plans to do next. So please join me in welcoming Broad Prize scholar Katrina Gonzales.

(Applause)

KATRINA GONZALES:

Good morning. It's my extreme pleasure to be here. Thank you, Mr. McGinity, for introducing me.

As the daughter of a teen mom and incarcerated father, I grew up near the poverty line. All the odds were stacked against me. At the age of 13, my mother dropped out of the eighth grade to care for my eldest sister, her first child, and my father went no further than the 12th grade.

My unlikely academic success reflects the hard work and encouragement of the teachers in the school that refused to let me fail. I attended one of the most academically prestigious high schools in the area of the Northside Independent School District and struggled to succeed as I mowed lawns to help my family make ends meet. It is a magnet school and I was accepted when my name was pulled in the admissions lottery.

The academics were rigorous. My peers were mostly middle- and upper-class kids whose parents had been to college. In contrast, the local school I would have attended was plagued by gang activity, drug use and high dropout rates. By the time I entered high school, I survived a childhood riddled with domestic violence, poverty, abuse and an alcoholic father. My teachers came early and stayed late to tutor me and taught with more than enough enthusiasm to help me hold onto my love of learning.

In my crowded three-bedroom home where 12 people lived, the kitchen pantry was my study space. I could keep the light on there without disturbing my sleeping family members, including two of my sisters who I shared a small bedroom with. The obstacles standing between me and a college education disappeared with every class that I made an A in instead of a C. I increased my high school GPA from 2.6 to 3.5 by my senior year.

I'm proud to report that this spring I graduated from Amherst College with a bachelor's degree in history and next month I'll travel to Ethiopia to teach elementary school at a couple of local orphanages.

(Applause)

KATRINA GONZALES:

The Broad Prize has played an important role in helping make my education financially tenable, but it has also reminded me that there are people who are concerned with helping more students like me beat the odds, even when that means believing in young people who perhaps don't get off to a perfect start, but within whom a fiery drive to flourish resides.

I cannot be more grateful to have the foundation make college possible and the confidence this foundation has inspired me to have in myself will be with me always.

Thank you and good luck.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

Thank you so much, Katrina. That was a great story and you represent the very best of what we believe in at The Broad Prize. So thank you for being with us.

Over the past decade of awarding The Broad Prize to traditional public school systems, we realized that we were missing an opportunity to deeply analyze the progress of public charter schools. So through Eli and Edythe Broad's generosity, we started a \$250,000 prize to honor urban public charter schools that have demonstrated the most outstanding overall student performance and improvement in the nation in recent years while reducing achievement gaps between income and ethnic groups.

This past spring we convened a 14-member review board to evaluate publicly available student achievement data on the 20 largest established urban charter school systems and to choose the top charter management organization.

In June, we were joined by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller at the National Charter School Conference in Minneapolis to announce that the winner of the inaugural Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools was YES Prep Public Schools, a charter management organization operating in Houston. And I believe Tony is with us here as well so we thank you for attending today.

YES Prep is a system of 10 middle and high schools that serve almost all low-income and minority students, but what is truly remarkable about their achievement is they have eliminated nearly all the income and ethnic achievement gaps. YES Prep closed the achievement gap five times more often than other CMOs. Their Hispanic and low-income students outperformed their peers statewide in reaching advanced academic levels more often than other large CMOs. YES Prep achieved higher advanced placement participation and passing rates than other CMOs and they outperformed other large urban CMOs in the national average in SAT participation and the scores.

As a winner of The Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools, YES Prep will receive \$250,000 to support low-income student college-readiness efforts. We're pleased to have representatives from YES Prep here today and we'd like to ask Jason Bernal, the president of YES Prep, to come forward and give a couple of remarks.

(Applause)

JASON BERNAL:

Thank you very much. It's truly an honor to be here today and thank you, Gregory.

If you give low-income students access to the same opportunities and resources that students have at great private schools, will they achieve at the same academic level? This is the simple question that a small group led by Chris Barbic set out to prove back in 1998.

Fifteen years later, we are proud to say that the answer is yes. YES Prep is proving every day that all students, regardless of background, can achieve at the highest levels. We frequently get the question, "how do you make this happen?" Although I don't have time to fully describe why the YES Prep system works, I want to emphasize three key themes: mission, people and a culture of learning.

First, mission. Since our inception, YES Prep has had a relentless focus on our mission to increase the number of low-income students who graduate from a four-year college prepared to work in the global marketplace and to give back to their communities. YES Prep was among the first school systems in the country to require every single senior to gain acceptance to a four-year college or university to earn their high school diploma.

Second, people. Simply put, at YES, people matter most. The YES Prep system is built around attracting and developing extraordinary teachers and leaders. We have worked relentlessly to ensure that opportunities for advancement in teaching and leadership are based on sustained excellence and not tenure, and YES Prep was one of the first charter systems in the nation to institute a performance-based evaluation compensation system. We have also worked relentlessly to provide relevant and valuable training to all of our teachers, and our teaching excellence program ensures that all new YES Prep teachers have the knowledge and skills to succeed in their first year of teaching and beyond. In fact, through our teaching excellence program, YES Prep is the first charter school system in Texas that can certify teachers.

And third, YES Prep has cultivated a culture of learning in collaboration with the mindset of learning and sharing out of the best interest of all students. We have formed partnerships with local traditional school districts in the Houston area. Three years ago YES Prep formed a partnership with North Forest Independent School District, the lowest performing school district in the State of Texas. Today students from this under-served neighborhood have made extraordinary gains in performance and last year we partnered with Houston Independent School District providing busing to our east end campus. This year YES Prep began our newest endeavor, a joint partnership with Spring Branch Independent School District. This partnership will have firsthand exposure in opportunities for collaboration among both staffs. Together we are setting an example for both school districts and charter school leaders across the country that it is possible to work effectively and collaboratively and learn from one another to build upon successful practices together.

I invite everyone in this room to come to Houston, visit YES Prep and to learn why our model works. And today it's incredibly rewarding and humbling to receive the inaugural Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools. This award affirms what we set out to prove nearly 15 years ago—that every student, regardless of their socioeconomic background, can achieve at the highest levels. The Broad Foundation prize money will allow us to continue to evaluate and define all aspects of our college-readiness programs. On behalf of the entire YES Prep community, sincere thanks to Eli and Edythe Broad and the entire team of The Broad Foundation for this honor. Thank you very much and congratulations to the finalists today.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

Thank you to you and your team for all the great work that they've done for all the students that you have.

It is now my great honor to introduce the more vocal and visible half of the Broad couple who have made today possible. I can tell you firsthand that Eli Broad is truly the unreasonable man. He shuns conventional wisdom, he rarely takes no for an answer and he pursues ideas that many think are impossible and that he makes them happen.

The Broad Prize is one of those ideas. When everyone was down on public education, he saw the need to recognize urban school districts that were making great progress. He saw the benefits of creating competition among urban school districts. Eli and Edythe Broad's work to improve public education is motivated by one intention: to ensure had every student in an urban public school has the opportunity to succeed.

It's been my deep privilege to work for both of them for the past nine years. Please join me in welcoming Eli Broad.

(Applause)

ELI BROAD:

Thank you, Gregory. I want to introduce my chief inspiration officer and wife of 57 years. Edye, would you please stand.

(Applause)

ELI BROAD:

Edye and I are delighted to see so many of you here. We want to extend a special thanks to MoMA director Glenn Lowry and his entire team for hosting us here today. The Broad Prize is probably our biggest event of the year and it's my favorite program.

Much of the work in education is focused on fixing what I call broken systems, bureaucracies that prevent teachers from doing great work, but The Broad Prize recognizes those school districts that enable their teachers to bring out the best in their students. These districts support and empower their teachers. They send resources to the classroom. They pore over data regularly to figure out the best way to teach your children. These districts are unfortunately the exception amongst large urban school districts.

We have a long way to go in our country before public schools provide every student with an education that enables them to succeed in college or in a solid middle-class job. Even the districts here today, districts that have made admirable improvements in student achievement, acknowledge that they have a long road ahead of them. So today we celebrate progress, not victory.

Over the past several decades, the world changed while American public schools kept plugging along. Other countries dramatically improved their school systems. They prioritized their public schools and revered and elevated their teachers. We did not fall behind overnight and we're not going to catch up overnight either. Over the past 13 years in our foundation's work in education reform, we've seen far too many good teachers unable to do great work because they're hindered by inefficient systems, outdated practices and inadequate resources.

Many years ago I spent a year as an assistant professor at a Detroit college and that experience gave me a life-long respect for teachers. Our goal is simple, to create environments where good teachers can achieve great things and every student has the opportunity to learn. The districts that we're honoring here today are doing just that, and it's our hope that they set an example for many more school systems around the country.

We cannot afford to wait patiently. We have an urgent need to provide every child a world-class education. It's no surprise that education reform has been raised by both presidential candidates during the recent debates. Both candidates highlighted strong public schools as a critical component of any proposed strategy to improve the health of our economy in both the near and long term.

While there may be many things that Americans disagree on, education is not one of them and it's about time.

It is now my honor to introduce our keynote speaker. Admiral Mike Mullen served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 2007 to September 2011. In that position he was a chief military advisor to President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. From 2005 to 2007, Admiral Mullen was the chief of naval operations, the Navy's highest ranking officer. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968. As chairman of the Joint Chiefs, he was instrumental in integrating special operations forces into U.S. military activities, including presiding over the military's role in targeting Osama bin Laden. He guided the U.S. armed forces through difficult cases in both the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

He oversaw humanitarian operations in Haiti and Japan. Admiral Mullen built critical relationships with Russia, China and Pakistan. His dedication to diversity and integrity of the U.S. armed forces informed his decision to support a repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Admiral Mullen is passionate about the health and welfare of our country's military families. He and his wife continue to devote significant time to advancing initiatives, including survival benefits, suicide prevention, mental health, wounded care, homelessness and better employment and education.

I had the privilege of meeting Admiral Mullen several years ago when we started discussing the issue of education in this country and I found him to be keenly aware of the issues facing America. As many of you know, earlier this year the Council on Foreign Relations issued a report stating that education was a national security issue and they found that 70 percent of Americans 17 to 24 were unfit to serve in our military, and one of the main reasons was that they didn't have the skills to pass a basic academic exam. The admiral understands all too well why education is an issue of national security and why it's urgent to fix our public schools.

Please join me in welcoming Admiral Mike Mullen.

(Applause)

**ADMIRAL
MICHAEL MULLEN:**

Thank you, Secretary Duncan, Mayor Bloomberg, most especially to Eli and Edythe Broad, for none of us would be here without your incredible dedication and focus on this critical issue.

I really do believe the health of our education system—in particular K-12—is about our future as a country. I'm generally an optimist, but I believe that the challenge that we face in our education system is our biggest long-term vulnerability as a nation.

We've been discussing the challenges with our system for—depending on who you talk to—two, three to four decades. Too many of us sat back and watched as it declined, and in that regard we have become less competitive both internally as a country and internationally. The evidence is not just overwhelming, it's alarming. Whether it's the high school dropout rate or the inability to place college graduates in skilled jobs—at the heart of this, it really affects our competitiveness as a country.

I've traveled far and wide, certainly in recent years, in many countries that are struggling, and when my counterparts or other leaders in those countries ask me my view of where they should

go first, in every single one of those countries, it is always education. And I find it somewhat ironic that while they look to us in so many ways, we too have challenges which so many people in this room recognize and are doing something about. This is our competitive advantage, our intellectual capital as a country, not just now but in the future. Investing in it, which so many of you do, will make such a difference for the future.

And I don't have to describe to this audience the interdependence that we have around the world, the globalization that's going on, the need to see young men and women like Katrina succeed. It needs to include culture, languages, critical thinking, math, science, engineering, an entire comprehensive menu of skills in order for us to compete in the long term.

Most of us here are adults; although sometimes I wonder what our kids are thinking when they watch the adults fighting about education. There are an awful lot of stakeholders and I understand that, and we, the adults, are supposed to find a solution, and I know that everybody in this room—certainly Eli, Edythe, the entire Broad organization—is focused on just that.

And we celebrate a partial solution today. I would echo what Eli said in terms of recognizing progress, but certainly nowhere close to victory. I'd like to say to the finalists, congratulations. It's just terrific to see so many who have worked hard. It's the best investment we can make in America.

I had the good fortune of a good education and can still remember my teachers down to the first and second grade. Nurman, who made a big difference. Francelia, who made a big difference. St. August in the eighth grade. My high school teachers, Mavis, Navard, Marcel. Those individuals made a difference in my life that I didn't understand then, but can remember fondly now, many decades later. So we've got to invest in our teachers and it needs to be a job that is fun, inspiring, well-compensated, rewarding, and those rewards include the kind of innovating freedom, ingenuity and creativity that we need for this critical cadre to move our country ahead. And we need to evaluate them fairly and reward the ones who succeed and make sure the ones that don't are no longer with us.

I've had the great privilege in the last few weeks of teaching for the first time in a long time at Princeton. It's 18 seniors and they're looking at what they're going to do for the rest of their life. They're very focused on saving the world, which is pretty inspirational. But not one of them has spoken about becoming a teacher. We need to turn that around, not just there at an elite school like Princeton, but across the country. It cannot be a choice of last resort. It needs to be a choice that is seen to make such a difference that our best and brightest are compelled to join.

Clearly, in the stakeholder world, parents have a great part to play as well.

As a Navy man, I moved around a lot over the years, and when we moved with our kids, the first thing we would focus on was the schools. Deb or I would go to interview the superintendent to see if that was a terrific place for my two boys to be, after which we would make a decision on where we lived.

And we've got to find the right place for the unions. And I would argue, it's probably somewhere in the middle, it's not at the extreme at a time in our country where we seem to operate far too frequently on the extremes of every single issue, including this one.

And I will assume the first 10 rows here are filled with people who figured out how to focus on their kids, focus on the teachers and figure out how to get to a solution that's going to make a difference no matter what part of the stakeholder world you are in.

I'm delighted to see Corona-Norco here in particular because I'm originally from California and it's a state I've been pretty worried about for a long period of time. I remember what it was like to be the product of a great school system a long time ago.

Should we measure? Yes. Should we hold people accountable? Absolutely. Should we give people choice? You bet. But we also in the long run must figure out a way to make our public school systems succeed. We need to run to those systems, our public schools, not run from them.

Lastly, we need to inspire our kids. We should be able to look at every single child and figure out how to inspire them in an area that they really can connect to. In the end, this needs to be all about our children. Everything we do should have them at the center of the universe. In doing that, I think the other issues that come into play can be resolved. If the children win, everybody wins.

In particular, Corona-Norco, Miami-Dade, Houston and Palm Beach, I really want to say how much I admire what you've done. From my perspective, there's not a better profession in the country, a better investment in our future than what you have dedicated your lives to so that those we care so much about have a future that can make a difference for themselves, their families, our country and indeed the world. There is no greater challenge and I think there is no greater endeavor.

So, congratulations to the finalists.

To Eli and Edythe, again, thank you for your leadership, for your persistence and for your generosity.

Thank you.

(Applause)

ELI BROAD:

Thank you, Admiral Mullen. We're deeply indebted to you for your service to our country and your continuing commitment to improving public education. Our next speaker shares my unreasonable nature, which is why we've worked well together on education issues for a decade. He's a national leading philanthropist. Mayor Mike Bloomberg doesn't mind tackling tough issues. He does what's right regardless of what's popular because he's so passionate about issues like public health, education, equality and public safety. He's taken on cigarettes, guns, sugar and more.

When it comes to improving public schools, Mayor Bloomberg shares our commitment to supporting great teachers and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to reach their full life potential. We're delighted that he's taking time to be with us today. Please join me in welcoming New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg.

(Applause)

**MAYOR
MICHAEL BLOOMBERG:**

Thank you. I want to welcome everybody from around the country. You could do us a big favor while you're here, spend some money. We need the sales tax revenues, and I will check with our finance commissioner before you leave town to make sure that you did.

It really is an honor to be here with some old friends, Gregory McGinity, Arne Duncan and Mike Mullen, but particularly with Edythe, and what's your husband's name again? Eli Broad. And I think it's a perfect place to celebrate The Broad Prize here at MoMA because few people have done more to support the arts, whether it's in California, New York or anyplace else, than the Broad family.

They understand how important education reform is to the future of our nation. They are passionate about putting the needs of children first. Over the past decade, The Broad Foundation has been instrumental in helping school districts across the country undertake major reform and they really have been an invaluable partner in our administration's efforts to turn around our school system that had been failing students for decades. And that includes helping us launch the NYC Leadership Academy to train the next generation of principals, creating more charter school options for students and parents and strengthening accountability for everyone.

One thing about working with Eli and Edye is that you constantly have to step up your game. In fact, just to give all of you some notice, New York was a finalist twice before our city school system finally took home the prize. I was getting ready to track him down in the middle of the night and say, "what on earth are you doing? Come on." But by perseverance and constantly improving our school system, eventually we were honored. Winning it in '07 really was a great honor and a powerful affirmation of the progress we made and continue to make in the New York City public school system.

And the best evidence of that progress I think is that since '05, our four-year graduation rates are up nearly 41 percent compared to just 9 percent for the rest of our state. I also note that's a clear apples-to-apples example of our success because all of the students in New York State take exactly the same test. And I'm proud to say that the biggest gains have been made by black and Latino students, whose graduation rates in New York City are up more than 50 percent, and that is due in no small part to the efforts of Dennis Walcott, first as deputy mayor of education and after that school chancellor.

Dennis is hiding someplace back there. Wave.

To put it in perspective, in New York City we have 1.1 million students in our public school system. Our school system budget is \$22 billion a year. Our challenge is to ensure that all of our students graduate and succeed in the 21st century workforce. And that's why today over 400 career and technical education programs are serving something like 140,000 students in fields ranging from navigation technology, culinary arts, emergency management and multimedia production.

We've also launched what we call Expanded Success Initiative that will target 40 schools that have shown progress in closing the achievement gap in high school graduation and work to replicate that success across the city. And our Success Mentor program is the largest school-based mentoring program in the nation and is giving more and more students help in studying for the GED, passing it and then making the transition to college.

Now, we know we have an awful lot of work to do but our schools are heading in the right direction. It's always two steps forward, one step back. That's always in education.

And we used to have this enormous exodus from New York City schools, particularly in middle schools where parents took their children and moved outside the city. Today our biggest problem is no matter how fast we build new seats, we cannot keep up with the demand. People want to come to New York City and send their kids to the public school system.

And we've just got to keep doing what we've been doing. Keep improving, make sure that we train our teachers and make sure we recruit the best and brightest. Make sure parents have options and explain to them the value of education, because unfortunately a lot of people just don't understand the future of their children depends on what they do in schools today.

We have an enormous income gap in this country, but it's all caused by an education gap. Our former schools chancellor, Joel Klein, said you will never cure poverty until you first fix our education system. A lot of people say the reverse but that's not true. Education is the hope of everybody.

All of our civil rights mean nothing if you can't make an informed choice, understand your freedoms and have the ability to exercise those freedoms.

The Broad Prize represents going in the right direction. What's right for New York isn't right for everywhere in this country, but what is important is that all of us that live in America, maybe even live in the world, focus on the education of every student. No matter what school district they're in, no matter what state or what country they're in, they all are going to be citizens that are going to share the world with our children and so we better make sure that everybody succeeds, we better make sure they succeed every day.

And the work of giving our kids a better future is obviously never done, but I think it's fair to say The Broad Foundation is helping to continually raise the bar for all students around the nation, to continuously challenge us, to hold our feet to the fire. And I want to congratulate all of this year's finalists. It's a great compliment to you to make it this far. Each of you have done incredible work in proving that progress is really possible.

And we're particularly blessed, and I've said this before, the best appointment President Obama ever made is sitting right here to my left.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

Thank you, Mayor Bloomberg. It's great to be back in your city and we appreciate your great leadership on so many issues, including education.

Our next speaker is someone who's become a national superstar when it comes to education. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan must not sleep very much because he's one of the most active, visible and influential education advocates in the country and one of President Obama's most trusted advisors.

Over the past four years, under the leadership of President Obama and Secretary Duncan, the historic Race to the Top competition helped unleash a wave of reform across the United States. He and his talented team have taken on the status quo and shown other government agencies how we can operate fundamentally different and find ways to improve educational opportunities for students.

Federal incentives help support 45 states to raise their academic standards. Thirty-three states changed laws to improve low-performing schools, encourage the growth of public charter schools and tie teacher evaluations to student growth in the classroom. Secretary Duncan recently completed a two-week back-to-school cross-country bus tour where he met with educators, students, principals, administrators and parents from coast to coast.

He has two children that attend public schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and despite serving in the president's cabinet, Secretary Duncan still considers being an engaged father to be among his first and foremost jobs. In the midst of his rigorous travel schedule, this marks the fourth year he has joined us for the announcement of The Broad Prize and we couldn't be more honored. Please join with me in welcoming Secretary Arne Duncan.

(Applause)

**SECRETARY
ARNE DUNCAN:**

Thank you so much, Gregory. I'm thrilled to be back. To the mayor and the admiral and the Broad family, thank you so much for your extraordinary commitment and this is some combination of being Santa Claus and Vanna White.

We heard some remarkable leaders speak but I have to tell you what sort of blew me away was Katrina. I think the challenge for us collectively is how we make these amazing individual success stories of perseverance, grit and determination in overcoming the odds and move from the individual to the collective. And while I'm so inspired by your story, I also worry about what would have happened if you hadn't gotten into that better school. Where would you be and would you be in this room today. Possibly not.

And while I respect so much about the districts here, what we have to do as a country is move from the individual to entire systems, not pockets of excellence, not islands of excellence, one phenomenal teacher, one great principal saving one great student, but how we do collectively help every single child, rich, poor, black, white, green, two parents, not two parents, teenage mom, not teenage mom, how do we help every child be successful. That's what our country needs.

And the admiral talked about how the world has changed. We're in a globally competitive economy. If you drop out of high school, you're consenting to poverty. We have a 25 percent dropout rate in this country. That's a million young people, mostly of color, leaving our schools for our streets. There's nothing viable for them to do. We have to get better, we have to get better faster and that's why I appreciate The Broad Prize so much. You shine a spotlight on success.

We have to do more to recognize success, celebrate success and most important replicate it. These four districts set extraordinary examples for all of us.

You mentioned the bus tour. It's an amazing tour, 12 states in about 10 days, and probably the one that hit me the hardest was Topeka, Kansas. Everyone knows the history and landmark civil rights case more than five decades ago. That case was about schools being separate and unequal. How many systems have schools that are truly equal and that are not separate? We have a long, long way to go in our country. We have to close what I call the opportunity gap. These teams collectively are helping us close the opportunity gap. We as a country need to learn about that. Let me just tell you a little bit about each district.

First, Corona-Norco, a first-time Broad Prize finalist. Last year, achievement gaps in the district between the African-American and white students in reading, math and science were among the smallest in California. The district has worked to establish a collaborative team to put the students first using different California approvals in a full budget crunch. Teachers have time set aside each week to brainstorm with their colleagues about instructional strategies and teachers hone their craft through 30 hours of professional development and training each year. And the extraordinarily dedicated and hard-working teachers in Corona-Norco took almost a five percent pay cut to protect programs that help children. I'd like that team to please stand and let's give them all a round of applause.

(Applause)

**SECRETARY
ARNE DUNCAN:**

Houston won the first Broad Prize in 2002. Houston increased the percentage of Hispanic and African-American students taking college-readiness exams more quickly than other school districts across the country. The district has required all schools, even the lowest performing schools, to dramatically increase their Advanced Placement course offerings. And through its novel approach, the district has successfully brought that same blend of data-driven instruction and increased instructional time to 20 of the district's lowest performing schools. Houston, please stand and give them a round of applause.

(Applause)

**SECRETARY
ARNE DUNCAN:**

Miami-Dade has been a Broad Prize finalist five times. Last year Miami-Dade students outperformed their peers in Florida in all comparisons and all school levels in reading, math and science, and at the same time the district has promoted the education of the whole child. The district has also provided extra resources and support for low-achieving schools to help them turn around. There are 51 of those schools. Data is at the center of all conversations in Miami-Dade. The district works to improve results across the board. Teachers there have regular data chats with students, and I don't know if when I was a student I would have liked to data chat with my teachers but I think it's absolutely the right direction to go. Miami-Dade's educating through data can be a blessing and not a burden in that it can help personalize learning and drive instructional improvement. Miami-Dade, please stand and be recognized.

(Applause)

**SECRETARY
ARNE DUNCAN:**

Palm Beach County in Florida has a higher graduation rate than almost any other urban school district around the country and greater increases for black and Latino students. The district recognizes graduation as the crown jewel of public school and it has deployed graduation gatekeepers to make sure high school students stay on track and get that diploma. From 2006 to 2009, Palm Beach County's overall graduation rates jumped a remarkable 18 percentage points. Please stand and let's give that team a round of applause.

(Applause)

**SECRETARY
ARNE DUNCAN:**

Again, I just want to congratulate all the finalists. You guys are all absolutely amazing in helping lead the country where we need to go. As the U.S. secretary of education, I'm thrilled to be here for the fourth time. Now comes the good part. I know you've been waiting long enough.

Is there an envelope somewhere? That would be a bad miss if there wasn't an envelope.

And the winner of the 2012 Broad Prize is:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

Alberto Carvalho, please come on up.

ALBERTO CARVALHO:

We are no longer the Susan Lucci of public education.

First I want to congratulate the other three remarkable districts who are transforming their communities through the power of education and in the process providing America scalable, replicable success stories. Most importantly, I want to thank the most powerful, dedicated, smartest workforce in America, Miami-Dade County Public Schools teachers, principals and the board that leads this great institution. To the chairman of the board, I want to say thank you. We have a large contingent here. I know Miami-Dade right now is dancing to the beat of salsa. They are celebrating as if it was Carnival right now.

But today marks an important day not only for Miami-Dade but for our nation. Fifteen years or less from now, the face of America will be Miami-Dade. Cracking the code today in Miami-Dade is serving as inspiration and a model for success for countless children who are expecting something better than many schools across America are getting right now.

If we are to be once again the nation of innovation, if we are to be the generation that will follow a quality of life superior to the one that we inherited ourselves, then it is our moral obligation to do our very best by elevating the quality of education in our schools and once again regaining the trust of our communities.

We've done it in Miami-Dade against all odds, in the middle of an economic recession, the likes of which none of us have lived through. We embraced those challenges. We leveraged those challenges. Never once did we lay off a single teacher for economic reasons or shut down a school program because of economic conditions. We forced—in the hardest of times—the budget to adapt to our values and principles rather than the other way around. We have made it. As we've done so, we expect America to follow suit, for this is the nation of innovation.

I want to thank the most remarkable couple that I've ever met, the chief inspiration officer, Edythe Broad, and somebody who I look up to not only for his business ingenuity but your remarkable passion for America's children. Through your dedication, your perseverance, your courage and your funding generosity, the dream is coming alive, it is being fulfilled and it is being delivered to America's children every single day.

On behalf of 400,000 children, on behalf of 28,000 teachers, on behalf of a grateful and leading school board and on behalf of dedicated principals and support staff, I want to thank The Broad Foundation and I want to thank America for everything it stands for. Miracles are possible even when you have to wait five years.

Thank you. God bless you.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

Thank you, Alberto, and congratulations to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Thank you to all of our distinguished guests and panelists who have joined us today. Let's have one more round of applause for Miami-Dade.

(Applause)

GREGORY MCGINITY:

Please be sure to pick up a 2012 Broad Prize brochure. It details the policies and practices that these great districts have used to improve student achievement. We hope you'll join us next year.

(Applause)



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