

Update
May '09

the brookline high school 21st century fund

local solutions for national challenges in education

BHS Student Mariko Dodson Presented with the 2009 Award for Citizenship

Mariko Dodson, BHS Class of 2010, is the recipient of the 21st Century Fund's 2009 Award for Citizenship. The Award for Citizenship is presented each year to a student whose civic involvement has helped to create a better community. This year's award honors Mariko for her personal innovation, her civic leadership, and her sense of global citizenship.

Mariko participated in the 21st Century Fund's Social Justice Leadership Program. This program is the brainchild of Roger Grande, social studies teacher at BHS and a longtime social justice activist. Roger saw the need for a course that "fosters student citizenship by incorporating humility, global awareness and social responsibility." It is a multifaceted course that includes weekly seminars, quarterly trainings, as well as visiting speakers who address leadership and issues in social justice; students also work as interns at local social justice organizations for 1/3 of the school year, 1-2 afternoons per week.



Through the Social Justice Leadership Program Mariko has been interning at [Corporate Accountability International](#) and has been supporting their campaign to reduce our use of plastic water bottles (which generate lots of CO2) and to arrest the privatization of water, especially in poor countries abroad where people have little access to safe drinking water. Mariko has also been involved in the [Tents of Hope project](#). She was instrumental in raising money to buy and decorate a tent that stopped in Washington, DC for a rally en route to Darfur where it will be used as a school for refugees fleeing genocide.

The Social Justice Leadership Program "has resulted in just what I hoped the class would result in, and more," Mariko says. "This year I've studied the causes and implications of the Rwandan genocide, began to study foreign policy and intervention, and discussed with classmates what social justice topics they feel passionate about." The result, Mariko explains, is that "I have narrowed down my particular social justice interest to human rights, but I now also know what I truly want my career to look like. I want to be someone who promotes human rights and peace, using a spectrum of tactics from grassroots organizing to international law. In the future, if I am doing what I envision myself doing, then I know I will remember this class as one of the most important steps towards where I am."

Mariko is serious about transforming the world and has already begun to do it. This isn't the last we will hear from her. Congratulations for making this a better community and world for all of us.

Read more about the [Social Justice Leadership Program](#) here.

Social Justice Certification and Closing Ceremony

On Tuesday, May 26th the Social Justice Leadership Program held its certification and closing ceremony during which students presented their mission statements. In their statements students summarize their year's worth of reflections and clarify visions for moving forward in their responses to social justice problems. By composing these mission statements students lay the foundations for their social justice work in life ahead. [Read the mission statement of BHS senior and Social Justice Leadership participant Sadye Sagov here.](#)

About the 21st Century Fund

The Brookline High School 21st Century Fund innovates effective local solutions to national challenges facing public high schools. The Fund is made possible by tax-deductible contributions and volunteer support from BHS parents, BHS alumni, and the broader Brookline community. Click the *Donate Now* button to contribute to the Social Justice Leadership Program and other innovative programs at the Brookline High School. [Visit the 21st Century Fund website](#) for more information.



About This Newsletter

The *21st Century Fund Update* is produced by the Brookline High School 21st Century Fund office. For comments or questions, please contact Beth Carlson at beth_carlson@brookline.k12.ma.us or 617-713-5211.



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