

Update
May 2010

the brookline high school 21st century fund

local solutions for national challenges in education

The 21st Century Fund presented two BHS students with awards at the Special Awards Ceremony held on April 27, 2010 at BHS. Please read the articles below to learn more about these two outstanding BHS students.

Ivory White Receives Award for Outstanding Participation

Ivory White, BHS class of 2010, received the 21st Century Fund Award for Outstanding Participation in a 21st Century Fund Program. This award is presented to one student whose participation in a 21st Century Fund program has resulted in profound academic and personal growth. The award honors persistence and a passion for learning. A \$1,000 scholarship was presented to White in recognition of her participation.

Ivory White is a young woman who has persevered through challenges that would exhaust and frustrate others with less energy, patience or spirit. Through her participation in the 21st Century Fund's Family Partnership Program, Ivory has courageously explored resources and pursued opportunities to realize her tremendous potential as a student, a writer, and a leader in the BHS community and beyond.

Ivory has participated in the Athena Conference-an annual leadership event planned and led by Harvard undergraduate students around the theme of female empowerment. She participates in, and has emceed, the annual Poetry Festival, held at the Brookline Booksmith. In the summer of 2009, Ivory attended the selective Juniper Young Writers Institute at UMass, Amherst, for a week of rigorous work with published poets and writers. This past January, Ivory performed her poem "Strive" at an all-school assembly to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her passion for writing continues to drive her forward. After graduation from Brookline High School this spring, Ivory plans to attend Lesley University in Cambridge, MA.

More about the Family Partnership Program

The Family Partnership Program helps families fully engage in their childrens' education. The program is aimed at narrowing the achievement gap by forming an intentional and formal partnership with the key family members of students to enhance their child's academic achievement. [Read more about the Family Partnership Program here.](#)

Sarah Plovnick Receives Award for Citizenship

Sarah Plovnick, BHS class of 2011, received the 21st Century Fund Award for Citizenship, for her personal innovation, civic leadership, and global citizenship. The 21st Century Fund presents this award each year to a student in one of its programs whose civic involvement has helped to create a better community and honors the spirit of personal innovation and creativity. A \$100 cash award was presented to Plovnick in recognition of her efforts to become a global citizen.

Plovnick participated in the 21st Century Fund's Social Justice Leadership Program, a program that fosters student citizenship by incorporating humility, global awareness and social responsibility through instruction, group activities and volunteering in a local organization.

Plovnick led a collaborative effort to create an organization that addresses the inequity in education and literacy. Sarah set up a relationship with the Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary K-5 School, in Dudley Square Roxbury. The school has no library and about half the students are recent immigrants who struggle to pass the MCAS. Many students study in the cafeteria after school. Sarah's passion attracted other students and by the end of the 2008-09 school year, Sarah and her colleagues had built a core team of activists who began doing book drives and visits to the school. Before long, the group began to plan IntelliJam!, a benefit concert to seed money for a library at Emerson Elementary School. Sarah coordinated a wide variety of tasks to drive this ambitious endeavor and to keep the Emerson Literacy team focused and organized. She oversaw communication, fundraising, website development, and much more. She ran meetings like a pro and always kept her colleagues motivated and moving forward. Sarah continues to be a force to inspire people in Brookline and beyond to support literacy in a low-income community.

More about the Social Justice Leadership Program

The Social Justice Leadership 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. [Read more about the Social Justice Leadership Program 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 a nationally recognized non-profit organization that brings together educators, parents, alumni and philanthropists committed to academic achievement for all students. The Fund has invested nearly \$4 million in 14 programs; six have been fully integrated into the Brookline High School curriculum and several are already national models. The Fund is made possible by tax-deductible contributions and volunteer support from BHS parents, BHS alumni, and the broader Brookline community. [Visit the 21st Century Fund website](#) for more information or click the Donate Now button to make a contribution.



About This Newsletter

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



Forward this issue to a friend by clicking the icon to the right.

If you do not wish to receive further issues, please unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

This email was sent to: beth_henderson@brookline.k12.ma.us

This email was sent by: BHS 21st Century Fund
115 Greenough Street Brookline, MA 02445 USA



We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [One-Click Unsubscribe](#)