

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RECIPIENTS OF
THE PRINCETON PRIZE IN RACE RELATIONS AWARD IN BOSTON 2005**

“To promote harmony, understanding, and respect among people of different races by identifying and recognizing high school age students whose efforts have had a significant, positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities.”

The Princeton Association of New England welcomes the Princeton Prize in Race Relations Award recipients and their guests. This evening, we are celebrating the accomplishments of ten young leaders in promoting harmony, understanding, and respect among people of different races within their schools or communities. From a record number of projects, the Prize Committee selected two Award Winners to share a grant of one thousand dollars, and eight Certificate Winners to receive Certificates of Accomplishment.

TATIANA MARIA FERNÁNDEZ

MARK FITZGERALD

REBECCA D. AIN

ETHIOPIAH P. AL-MAHDI

NADEZHDA DAVILA

JANETTE EKANEM

MISHKA JACKSON

MINH NGUYEN

ALYSE RUIZ

AISHA NICOLE SMITH

MISHKA JACKSON, Junior, Wakefield High School

FHYNITA BRINSON, *Sponsor*

- Established & sustained the Gospel Choir of Wakefield, an organization of multi-ethnic singers and performances, which became a formal part of the school's music program

MINH NGUYEN, Senior, Beaver Country Day School

JENNIFER PRETSCH, *Sponsor*

- Member, Diversity Committee, organized trip to Dorchester's Vietnamese-American community
- Member, Del Sol, producing programs to highlight arts of different cultures
- Co-Founder, Asian Culture Club
- Member, CAPAY (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth)
- Member, VIET Aid
- Member, BRYE (Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment)
- School Representative, Diversity Leadership Conference in Miami

ALYSE RUIZ, Senior, Concord Academy

MARCY MORENO, *Sponsor*

- Co-Chair, Diversity Committee
- Established program for informing New England Citybridge (tuition-free summer & year-round academic enrichment program for urban middle school students) students about independent high schools, particularly Concord Academy, and inviting Umoja (African American Affinity Group) and Alianza Latina students to encourage students to apply
- School Representative, People of Color Conference, National Association of Independent Schools

AISHA NICOLE SMITH, Junior, Concord Academy

MARIE D. MYERS, *Sponsor*

- Co-Chair, Diversity Committee
- Co-Chair, Umoja (African American Affinity Group)
- Co-Chair, MOSAIC (Multicultural Organization for Student Awareness of Identity & Culture)
- Developed "Roots Revisited" on MLK Day, performances based on real experiences of racism

*The Princeton Prize in Race Relations was founded in 2003 by Henry Von Kohorn '66, an alumnus of Princeton University, as an awards program to recognize high school students for outstanding work in their schools or communities to advance the cause of race relations. Pilot projects were launched in the Washington, D.C., and Boston metropolitan areas. This year, it was offered in Houston, Atlanta, and St. Louis, and next year will begin in Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, with the ultimate goal of expanding the program nationwide. Project entries are judged by the Princeton Prize Committee, which consists of alumni, administrators, and students. The Boston program is coordinated by local alumni, namely Elizabeth Gilbert '00, Brent Henry '69, Murph Shapiro '64, Julia Shivers '82, Scott Styles '90 & *96, and Co-Chairs Frederick Dashiell '76, Michael Redd '00, and Catharine Lin Snyder '95. Advisors to the Boston committee are Abby Cox '91, Wes Harris *68, Mary Ellen Alessandro '88, and Alan Safran '80.*

5:30 PM "Ballpark" Dinner

7:00 PM Brief Meeting, Princeton Association of New England

7:20 PM Introductions & Awards Ceremony, with Short Remarks by Awardees

8:00 PM Keynote Speaker Larry Lucchino '67, President & CEO, Boston Red Sox

8:50 PM Traditional Singing of Princeton's Alma Mater "Old Nassau" & Adjournment

AWARD RECIPIENTS

TATIANA MARIA FERNÁNDEZ, *Senior, Brookline High School*

ELLEN KAPLOVITZ, *Sponsor*

As a sophomore, Tatiana organized an in-school “Day Away on Affirmative Action” with her school group Students of Color. For this event, she contributed to recruiting speakers on the pros and cons of affirmative action and coordinating same-day, small group focus sessions on these issues. It was her persistent efforts that brought Cedric Jennings of Ron Suskind’s *A Hope in the Unseen* to speak at her school. As president of her school’s Latino-American Club for two years, she organized an annual Latino Culture Day and a *Brown v. Board of Education* Day at her school and co-founded the Latino Scholars and Mentoring Program. As a trained Peer Educator, she co-founded “Girls’ Group,” a social support group for high school girls. This year, she also performed in *Zoot Suit*, the first play by an Hispanic playwright to be produced at her school.



MARK FITZGERALD, *Senior, Needham High School*

KATE WOICKE, *Sponsor*

As a junior, Mark was nominated to chair the Needham High Civil Rights Team, an advisory group and open forum founded by teachers and students in response to rising racial tensions. As a senior, Mark undertook twenty-five hours of training, weekly meetings before school, and regular classroom visits to become a high school peer facilitator for the Anti-Defamation League. This year, Mark also coordinated Needham High’s Student Speak Out Assembly on racial and ethnic discrimination issues and presented a slideshow displaying examples of actual hate graffiti found at his school and in neighboring towns. Lastly, Mark joined the town of Needham’s Human Rights Committee, a multidimensional task force that meets regularly to promote diversity and to raise the community’s consciousness about racial issues.



CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT RECIPIENTS

REBECCA D. AIN, *Senior, Newton North High School*

MICHELE LEONG, *Sponsor*

- Winner, Human Rights Award, Newton Human Rights Commission
- Winner, Humanitas Award, Newton North High School
- Board Member, Human Rights Board, Newton North High School
- Member, Lead Young Boston, National Conference for Community and Justice
- Organized dialogue on Mark Twain’s novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- Facilitated dialogue on race at The Boston Children’s Museum
- Attended Anytown summer program

ETHIOPIAH P. AL-MAHDI, *Senior, Boston Latin School*

RASHAUN MARTIN, *Sponsor*

- President, Young Leaders of Color
- Provided academic & peer tutoring to entering students, in cooperation with faculty
- Helped raise \$20,000 for Tsunami relief
- Worked on “Dunk the Vote” initiative
- Established “Just Us Youth,” a daily mentoring & tutoring at Freedom House in Dorchester

NADEZHDA DAVILA, *Senior, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School*

LORRAINE DAVIS, *Sponsor*

- Leadership Team, Peace and Justice Corps
- Developed video & play around real issues of race
- Organizer, STARS (Students Teaching and Advocating Respect) Seeking Solutions Conference
- Member, Dating Violence Intervention Program

JANETTE EKANEM, *Senior, Lexington High School*

JENNIFER WOLFRUM, *Sponsor*

- Co-Chair, reestablished United Voices, providing students & faculty the opportunity to discuss school issues of race relations
- Attended Empowering Multicultural Initiatives student retreat
- Co-Chair, United Voices, resuscitated and led student forum on diversity and discrimination, promoting dialogue between school administrators & students of color