



West New York School District Cited as A National Leader In Preparing Students for College

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West New York, NJ – West New York School District is the nation's leader, among small school districts, in advancing its students' readiness for a college education, according to the College Board, a national not-for-profit association representing more than 5,900 colleges, universities and schools. West New York received national recognition for expanding access to College Board Advanced Placement Exams and improving scores among students taking the exam. Nationwide, four school districts have received the 2011 AP District of the Year award for opening AP classrooms to a significantly broader pool of students while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of three or higher.

"Motivating students to achieve success as they pursue a college education is essential to creating the highly educated workforce our country needs. I congratulate the West New York School District for being selected as a national leader among small districts that nurture academic achievement through the AP program," said acting New Jersey Education Commissioner Chris Cerf.

The College Board will work closely with each of the AP District of the Year winners to document what they are doing so they can share their best practices with all members of the AP community. Participation in college-level AP courses can level the playing field for underserved students, give them the confidence needed to succeed in college, and raise standards and performance in key subjects such as science and math. Many U.S. school districts have focused on expanding access to AP courses as part of a strategy for fostering college readiness.

West New York received its distinction for fostering a college-going culture by increasing student participation in AP from 48 to 99 students, a 44 percent annual increase. The district also increased the percentage of AP students earning scores of three or higher from 21 percent to 37 percent and increased the percentage of traditionally underserved minority AP students earning scores of three or higher from 23 percent to 36 percent.

Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded as the large district. Colton Joint Unified School District, Colton, California was awarded as the medium sized district. Hillsborough County Public Schools in Tampa, Florida will receive the Beacon Award for its profound achievement in using AP to create a culture focused on college readiness. The 2011 AP District of the Year awards will be presented at a celebratory plenary session at the AP Annual Conference in San Francisco on July 22. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.