



Third Annual Fairfield County Academic Gain Award Goes To Jefferson Science Magnet School in Norwalk

Stamford, CT, November 9, 2009 — The Lone Pine Foundation, a Connecticut-based private foundation which seeks to break the cycle of poverty through education, announced today that **Jefferson Science Magnet School** in **Norwalk** is the winner of the Third Annual Fairfield County Academic Gain Award. The award is designed to acknowledge the public elementary schools that have made the greatest academic gain in student achievement, to create incentive for other schools to work toward significant academic gains, and to foster the sharing of effective practices.

As the winner of the Fairfield County Academic Gain Award, every full-time employee at **Jefferson Science Magnet School** in **Norwalk** during the 2008-09 academic year will each receive \$500. Every full-time employee of the 2nd place winning school, **Silvermine Elementary School** in **Norwalk**, will each receive \$350 and all full-time employees of the two finalist schools, **The Hall School** and **Multicultural Magnet School**, both in **Bridgeport**, will each receive \$250. Part time employees will receive half the amount of their colleagues at each respective school. All four schools will receive \$1,000 to be used at the school's discretion for academic gain.

“The Lone Pine Foundation is committed to rewarding the administrators, teachers and staff at schools that have made exemplary gains and encouraging them to perform at their best for the children of Fairfield County,” said Lucy Ball, Executive Director of the Lone Pine Foundation. “We are also thrilled that the effective teaching practices outlined throughout this process have been consistent so that every educator should be able to use them as a valuable guide.”

All 151 public elementary schools in Fairfield County were considered for the Fairfield County Academic Gain Award. The Lone Pine Foundation together with Cambridge Education undertook statistical analysis of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). The Lone Pine Foundation Advisory Board then selected a short list of the four most improved schools.

A team from the Lone Pine Foundation and Cambridge Education conducted site visits at each of the Finalist schools on the short list. The visits included interviews with the principals, students, teachers, and parents, as well as thorough reviews and evaluations of school portfolios – test data, student work samples, school improvement plans, and professional development plans.

The site visits focused on using objective criteria and rubric to review and evaluate the improvements made in student achievement, the quality of education provided, and the level of sustainability at the school. This information was then presented to the Lone Pine Foundation Advisory Board and the winning school was then chosen.

About the Lone Pine Foundation

The Lone Pine Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation") is a private foundation in Greenwich, Connecticut funded by the employees of Lone Pine Capital LLC ("Lone Pine Capital"). The Lone Pine Foundation was founded in 2001 to help children and families in need. The Foundation's mission is to help break the cycle of poverty through education. It awards grants to programs that serve low-income families and children in the areas of education and youth development. All Lone Pine Capital full-time employees are equal voting members of the Foundation board. While all administrative expenses are covered by Lone Pine Capital, the Foundation is funded by the board member's annual contributions. The Foundation awards grants to organizations with programs located where the majority of the Foundation's board members reside, specifically in Fairfield County, CT, New York City, NY, Westchester County, NY and London, UK. The Lone Pine Foundation seeks to make the greatest impact in youth development and education while creating and developing a spirit of philanthropy among its board members. Since the Lone Pine Foundation seeks to break the cycle of poverty through education, Lone Pine believes in rewarding those who provide high quality education and enable their students to achieve the greatest academic gain. For more information, please see the Foundation's website: www.lonepinefoundation.org.

About Cambridge Education

Cambridge Education, a leading global provider of education consulting services for more than 25 years, is committed to helping improve the quality of education in the United States. It works collaboratively with state agencies, districts, and schools to positively impact student learning by offering high-quality School Improvement Services.

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