



Bronx student wins full college scholarship; one of five in nation chosen for honors

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Philadelphia (July 21, 2009) – Camila Diaz, a senior this fall at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics, is one of five students in the nation who will receive full college scholarships from the Leonore Annenberg College Scholarship Fund. The value of the scholarship will depend on the cost of the student’s college.

Other students chosen to receive the awards live in Boston, Philadelphia, Houston, and rural Vermont. The awards were made in the students’ junior year to allow them to select a college based on their aspirations and abilities, not finances. The all-expense scholarships cover tuition and fees, room and board, books, a laptop, as well as a modest stipend.

Now in its second year, the college scholarship program is part of the Leonore Annenberg Scholarship and School Funds, a three-pronged philanthropic initiative that targets young people who possess the potential to become the cultural and community leaders of the next generation. The awards focus on exceptional young artists, successful high school juniors who have faced serious challenges, and public elementary schools lacking essential resources for their students.

The program reflects the late Leonore Annenberg’s lifelong commitment to public service, education and the arts, and her unparalleled efforts to improve the lives of the nation’s youth.

“These awards provide opportunities for artistic growth and educational advancement to beneficiaries whose contributions will strengthen American cultural life and enrich our democracy. Their conduct and body of work will serve as a constant reminder of Leonore Annenberg’s generosity and high standards,” said Gail Levin, director of the program.

When Ms. Diaz began her education at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics she had been homeschooled for a full year and needed to catch up to her ninth grade peers. According to her

academic advisor, Ms. Diaz was the strongest student in the class within only a month, and by the end of September she was already tutoring other students.

Now in her junior year, Ms. Diaz ranks third in her class of 116. In addition to AP and honors courses and a Japanese-language elective, she attends the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Program in Manhattan, a rigorous academic enrichment program that offers college-level curricula, and dedicates time to peer tutoring and mentoring and serving on her student government. Camila's numerous accomplishments – and her warmth, generosity, and upbeat attitude – are particularly notable in light of her enduring the continuing effects of complicated leg surgery.

Students who were selected as Leonore Annenberg College Scholarship recipients last year, 2008, will be attending Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Chicago and Tufts University this fall.

Visit www.LeonoreAnnenbergScholarships.org for more information.

About the Benefactor

Leonore Annenberg (1918-2009) served as U.S. Chief of Protocol during the first term of the administration of Ronald Reagan, a position that carries the rank of ambassador. She spent most of her life working toward the enhancement of cultural appreciation among American citizens. As chairman and president of the Annenberg Foundation, she also supported a wide range of institutions and organizations in the areas of education, health and civics.

She was a trustee and a member of the Acquisitions Committee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1991, she and her husband Walter H. Annenberg, a former Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, donated their collection of more than 50 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, watercolors and drawings to the museum. The collection is acknowledged as one of the most distinguished private collections of its kind. She was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a member of the Trustee's Council of the National Gallery of Art, and one of the managing directors of the Metropolitan Opera, to which she provided a partial endowment to continue its international radio broadcasts. She was a long-time trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, underwriting a new building for the Annenberg Public Policy Center and establishing the Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society, the country's first learned society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mrs. Annenberg graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She received the National Medal of Arts from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Andrew Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy and the United Nations Association Global Leadership Award. Mrs. Annenberg was awarded honorary degrees from Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California, Brandeis University, and other institutions.