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## **AF AMISTAD HIGH CELEBRATES 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE WITH “SENIOR SIGNING DAY”**

*AF Amistad High Students Gain Acceptance to Ivy League Schools and Other Top Colleges*

### **Event Details**

**Who:** Members of the Achievement First Amistad High Class of 2013, the school’s fourth consecutive graduating class with a 100 percent college acceptance rate.

**What:** AF Amistad High’s graduating seniors will take to the stage to unveil their college choices and share stories about their academic journeys.

**Where:** Woolsey Hall, Yale University, 168 Grove Street, New Haven

**When:** Wednesday, May 29, 1:45 p.m.

May 22, 2013 – NEW HAVEN, CONN. – Achievement First, a high-performing network of 22 non-profit, college-preparatory public charter schools in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island, will hold its annual “Senior Signing Day” to recognize the graduating class of AF Amistad High. Graduating seniors have achieved a 100 percent college acceptance rate each year since the school graduated its first senior class in 2010.

Seniors will stand before their families, friends and the Achievement First community as they announce their college choices and share stories about their academic journeys. This year, 13 percent of the school’s graduating seniors were accepted to Ivy League institutions including Brown University, Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania. Seniors were accepted to a total of 146 colleges, such as Northwestern University, Middlebury College, University of Connecticut, University of Chicago, Vassar College and Johns Hopkins University.

Traditionally, signing day events are reserved for nationally renowned high school athletes revealing their college choices. At AF Amistad High, “Senior Signing Day” recognizes the importance of college acceptance for all students as they work to graduate from top colleges, to succeed in a competitive world and to serve as the next generation of leaders in our communities. To learn more about “Senior Signing Day” or to reserve your spot at the event, contact Amanda Pinto at [amandapinto@achievementfirst.org](mailto:amandapinto@achievementfirst.org).

### **About AF Amistad High and Achievement First**

AF Amistad High is a college-preparatory public charter high school that opened with ninth graders in 2006, and now serves grades nine through 12. In the 2012-13 school year, it serves 316 students, 99 percent of whom are African American or Latino, 73 percent of whom qualify for free and reduced price lunch, and most of whom will be the first in their families to graduate from college. AF Amistad High combines rigorous courses and high expectations with a host of support services more common at



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affluent and private high schools, including SAT prep, intensive college counseling, tutoring and explicit character education.

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, currently operates 22 public charter schools in Brooklyn and Connecticut, with an additional school opening in Rhode Island in August 2013. The mission of Achievement First is to close the achievement gap and deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all children, regardless of race, economic status or zip code. With its college-preparatory focus, the Achievement First approach is attaining breakthrough academic gains throughout its network of 22 public charter schools. In the 2012-13 academic year, Achievement First is educating more than 7,000 students in historically low-performing and underserved neighborhoods in Connecticut and New York (with Rhode Island opening in August 2013).

Achievement First's approach to teaching and learning enables every student to succeed at the highest levels. This involves:

- Providing students with more time on task and intense intervention when they are struggling so that no child falls through the cracks;
- Recruiting and developing successful teachers and school leaders and empowering them to use student data to strategically drive instruction;
- Creating a joyful school culture where it is "cool to be smart" that emphasizes character education and focuses students on college.

For more information, please visit <http://www.AchievementFirst.org>.

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