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**ACHIEVEMENT FIRST NAMED ONE OF THREE FINALISTS
FOR 2013 BROAD PRIZE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

May 16, 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, today announced that it is one of three finalists for the 2013 Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools. The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation created the award to honor the urban public charter school system that has demonstrated the most outstanding overall student performance while reducing the achievement gap. The winner will be announced on July 2 at the 2013 National Charter Schools Conference in Washington, D.C.

Finalists were determined by a nine-member review board composed of prominent education researchers, policy leaders, practitioners and executives from around the country. According to The Broad Foundation, Achievement First was selected, in part, because its “students performed better than their peers in school districts with similar income demographics in Connecticut and New York in all available comparisons—elementary, middle and high school reading, math and science in Connecticut, and elementary reading, math and science and middle school reading and math in New York.”

“We are honored to be selected as a finalist for this prestigious award, and we are extremely proud of the gap-closing results that led to this recognition,” said Achievement First Co-CEO and Superintendent Doug McCurry. “I would like to congratulate the entire team at Achievement First, because amazing work happens in our schools every day to help students climb the mountain to and through college. We look forward to working even harder on behalf of the 7,200 students in our network.”

Achievement First also congratulates its fellow finalists, KIPP Foundation and Uncommon Schools. Achievement First is proud to partner with both organizations in closing the achievement gap through such initiatives as the creation of Relay GSE (formerly Teacher U), an innovative urban teacher training program incorporating the best teaching practices honed in high-performing public charter schools.

To learn more about Achievement First’s results, or to arrange an interview, please contact Amanda Pinto at amandapinto@achievementfirst.org. To read more about the award and view The Broad Foundation’s media release, please visit The Broad Foundation at <http://www.broadprize.org/>.

About Achievement First

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



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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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