



**Today's
Students**
**Tomorrow's
Teachers™**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS TODAY'S STUDENTS TOMORROW'S
TEACHERS \$30,000 to Expand Innovative Program for Bridgeport's Next Generation of
Highly Motivated Diverse Teachers**

(Bridgeport, CT---) School is out for the summer in Bridgeport, but high school students, who want to become future educators like Jose Lopez, a Central Magnet High School sophomore, and one of 50 Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) participants just received a sun filled burst of great news from the Fairfield County Community Foundation. Over the summer the foundation pledged \$30,000, representing a 50% increase in funding for TSTT in Bridgeport to support additional male students in the program that engages culturally diverse and economically challenged students year round with valuable teaching and learning experiences.

As a summer intern, Jose teaches 4th – 8th graders literacy, math, writing, chess, tennis and other games and tutors 2 hours each week after school at the Lighthouse Program. It is all part of TSTT's 8-year full circle career development initiative that prepares students for success in college and careers as teachers with mentoring, tutor training, teacher shadowing, college tours, personal and professional development workshops, technology conferences and mock interviews, all while teaching them to give back. Jose Lopez is already making a mark on the lives of the children he is tutoring. He recently shared with TSTT how, in less than a year, TSTT has made a difference in his life,

"Even though I joined in the middle of the year, I could not wait to get all of my requirements done. What triggered me to move so quickly was that feeling of ownership. I am a part of this awesome program, TSTT, which gave me a feeling of belonging, students in my community lack that muse that will push them into their future...whenever I step into ...any TSTT meeting or event, I feel an environment of caring and compassion that I don't get anywhere else in school. TSTT has become a place of understanding, an outlet for me..."



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Where, I am not judged but pushed to the top of my potential...leading me into an adulthood of accountability and mentorship. "

In addition to Jose, over 650 students across four states find the guidance and support offered by TSTT to be life changing. TSTT plans to expand upon its future male teachers with a cohort of 10 new male students in Bridgeport as part of its Male Teacher of Color Initiative in 2012-13. Compared to the national average of 4 percent, 22 percent of the TSTT future teachers are minority males.

In addition to their early teacher preparation, TSTT students graduate high school and are admitted to college at a rate of 90%, well above the national average for students of color. They are eligible to receive at least a 50% tuition scholarship from one of TSTT's 23 partnering colleges. More than 100 TSTT teachers have been teaching for as long as 12 years, and are making a difference in the lives of deserving children.

About TSTT

TSTT is an innovative career development model that addresses teacher shortages by recruiting, mentoring and training, culturally diverse and economically challenged students in high school and throughout college and helps place them as certified teachers in schools and as leaders in the community. For more information visit: www.tstt.org.

About Fairfield County Community Foundation

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$151 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information visit: www.fccfoundation.org.