



NOBLE

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NOBLE WINS THE 2015 BROAD PRIZE FOR TOP PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEM

Chicago network recognized as the nation's best with \$250,000 gift

NEW ORLEANS – Today, the [Noble Network of Charter Schools](#) was named the winner of the 2015 [Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools](#) and will receive \$250,000 to support college-readiness efforts for their Chicago students. [The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation](#) announced the winner today at the [National Charter Schools Conference](#) in New Orleans.

“We are honored to have Noble recognized with the Broad Prize,” said Noble CEO and Founder Michael Milkie. “When my wife and I started Noble 16 years ago, we were public school teachers with a dream of preparing students to be successful in school and in life. We are grateful for the hard work of so many who share our belief and have made the success of thousands of students a reality. This honor is a testament to the hard work of the Noble community.”

Noble was one of three finalists – including [Achievement First](#) and [IDEA Public Schools](#) – selected by a 10-person review board which found the charter networks had the best overall performance, especially in serving primarily low-income students and students of color. The Broad Foundation noted Noble’s significant student achievement accomplishments as reasons for the selection. In all 2014 comparisons – middle and high school reading, math and science – Noble’s African American students ranked in the top 30 percent of Illinois when compared to African American students in the rest of the state. African American students in the remaining Broad Prize-eligible charter school systems ranked in the top 30 percent of their respective states in less than a quarter of comparisons.

“Noble is exceptional because they operate almost entirely high schools, which are often the toughest grades to advance academically at high levels,” said Paul Pastorek, a member of The Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools review board and the former Louisiana state superintendent of education. “Noble is clearly on to something because they’ve been able to scale and sustain their academic achievement. They have demonstrated that all students have the ability to perform at college-ready levels.”

The \$250,000 gift from The Broad Foundation will benefit the Noble college program, which will serve 11,000 current students and thousands of Noble graduates in the year to come on their path to a college diploma.

Noble offers long-term stability as well as unique opportunities, which have led to its success in preparing students for college. This gift will further critical initiatives and support programs accessed by every Noble student to deliver on the promise of making a college degree their reality.

A [recent WBEZ study](#) found up to 80 percent of Noble students remained at the same high school for four years. Noble offers various support throughout high school like College Seminar, [Summer](#)

[of a Lifetime](#) and the College Completion Standards, which help Noble students reverse an alarming national statistic – [11 percent of low-income students in the country are expected to graduate from college](#). Currently, Noble alumni – who are 95 percent African American or Latino, with more than 89 percent having qualified for federal free or reduced price meals – graduate college three times the rate of comparable students.

With thousands of alumni in college, Noble has developed a variety of [support services](#) that will help students earn their college degree – personalized support which is offered to Noble alumni for six years after graduation. All Noble campuses with graduates now have at least one full-time alumni coordinator, whose sole job is to support graduates in college. And, starting this fall, [14 colleges across the country](#), including five in Illinois, have agreed to partner with Noble to close the financial aid gap for 70 undocumented Noble students in the [Pritzker Access Scholarship](#) program.

The Broad Prize will not just benefit students in Chicago. Noble is offering the fellow finalists, along with the previous three Broad Prize winners, \$10,000 each. This will allow the leaders of each charter organization to participate in the Noble summer college hedgehog – a three-week program dedicated to creating new tools and refining established ones to ensure students master the academic and soft skills our students need on their path to college.

About Noble

Noble (www.noblenetwork.org) is Chicago's largest and highest performing network of public high schools. Last year, Noble campuses were eight of the top 10 open enrollment public high schools in Chicago and more than 90 percent of graduates matriculated to college this year. Noble is a non-selective network serving more than 10,000 students throughout Chicago at 16 campuses. Noble campuses are located in some of Chicago's highest need communities and serve a student population that is 89 percent low-income and 98 percent minority. As a public non-selective high school, there are no testing requirements for enrollment at any of Noble's campuses.

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