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NEWSLETTER



BART

a college prep charter school

BART Receives National Award for Student Achievement Gains

Victories are celebrated every day at BART: a struggling student aces a test, enthusiastic basketball players score last-minute points, talented young singers qualify for district competitions. But every now and again, the entire BART community comes together to rejoice in a major school-wide triumph.

In early March, BART received some exciting news: the Adams-based school received national recognition, along with 17 other charter schools, for its breakthrough student achievement gains. The Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC), a program of New Leaders for New Schools, honored BART with an award that includes financial rewards for instructional leaders, teachers and para-professionals, who have agreed to work with New Leaders for New Schools to document and share the practices that led to their success.

"We are thrilled to have another way to positively impact the broader education community," said Julia Bowen, BART's Executive Director. "We feel strongly we want to share our own effective strategies with other school leaders, just as we look to them for ideas we might want to implement at BART," she said.

"We're all in this together, and in public education the exchange of information is very important," she added.

Instructional leaders at the 18 honored institutions will receive awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000, while most teachers at each school will receive awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

This national recognition by EPIC comes on the heels of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's commending BART for its "high growth" status and for its narrowing of the achievement gap.

Ms. Bowen credits the significant strides to students, faculty, and staff. "We are extremely proud of our students and the academic growth they have achieved," she said. "And our exceptional teachers are committed to making certain that every student reaches his or her academic potential and is well prepared for college."

"The thing I really like about the EPIC award is that it rewards the remarkable teamwork and camaraderie the faculty and staff have here at BART," said Erin Milne, the school's music teacher. "I'm really proud of the team effort we all put in at BART, and the EPIC award tells us that we're doing something right."

BART, a college-preparatory, tuition-free middle and high school, is one of nearly 5,000 charter schools in the U.S. Its rigorous program is based on the philosophy that every child can excel and go to college; skills and talent are not innate, but rather are learned through hard work, dedication, and support.

"We are constantly looking for effective ways to broaden and enhance the learning experience for our students," said Ms. Bowen. "This award sends a clear message to everyone in our community that hard work pays off." 🌟



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