

Resident receives Award for Citizenship

Mariko Dodson, Brookline High School Class of 2010, is the recipient of the 21st Century Fund's 2009 Award for Citizenship. The award is presented each year to a student whose civic involvement has helped to create a better community. This year's award honors Dodson for her personal innovation, her civic leadership and her sense of global citizenship.

Dodson participated in the 21st Century Fund's Social Justice Leadership Program. This program is the brainchild of Roger Grande, social studies teacher at BHS and a longtime social justice activist. Grande saw the need for a course that "fosters student citizenship by incorporating humility, global awareness and social responsibility." It is a multifaceted course that includes weekly seminars, quarterly trainings, as well as visiting speakers who address leadership and issues in social justice; students also work as interns at local social justice organizations for one third of the school year, one to two afternoons per week.

Through the Social Justice Leadership Program, Dodson has been interning at Corporate Accountability International, and has been supporting their campaign to reduce the use of plastic water bottles (which generate lots of carbon dioxide) and to arrest the privatization of water, especially in poor countries where people have little access to safe drinking water.

Dodson has also been involved in the Tents of Hope project. She was instrumental in raising money to buy and decorate a tent that stopped in Washington, D.C., for a rally en route to Darfur, where it will be used as a school for refugees fleeing genocide.