

**LINCOLN CENTER INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS IN EDUCATION
ANNOUNCES IMAGINATION AWARD 2008 RECIPIENTS**

*Two New York City Schools in Brooklyn and Queens to be Honored
for Creative Teaching and Innovative Thinking*

ABC News' Cynthia McFadden to moderate Imagination Conversation

May 15, 2008 . . . Two New York City schools— PS 115 The Daniel Mucatel School in Brooklyn and The Renaissance Charter School in Queens — will be honored with Lincoln Center Institute's Imagination Award during day-long festivities on Wednesday, May 28th. The Imagination Award, now in its second year, is given to recognize and highlight imaginative thinking in the teaching and learning practice of New York City's public schools.

"Developing students' imaginations and teaching them to think creatively is critical if they are to meet the challenges of today's world," says Scott Noppe-Brandon, Executive Director of Lincoln Center Institute (LCI). "Both PS 115 and the Renaissance Charter School encourage students to observe and question the subjects of their study and engage them; both schools use the arts as a catalyst for richer, more complete learning."

PS 115 The Daniel Mucatel School is the Imagination Award winner in the elementary school category. Located in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, PS 115 applies imaginative thinking to every aspect of its curriculum. All of the students receive classes in every arts discipline throughout the year, and the school takes part in the national "Odyssey of the Mind" program in creative problem solving. The school's principal, Mitchell S. Pinsky, believes that a curriculum should make connections to the students' world, thereby creating an excitement about learning and stimulating the intensity of instruction in the classrooms.

At The Renaissance Charter School, which receives the Imagination Award in the high school category, students are also encouraged to connect to their world and to the city in which they live. The school prides itself on nurturing "the whole child," and many electives are offered to both tap into teachers' knowledge

and students' interests. Located in Jackson Heights, the school has a multi-national student body that, as a group, shares 89 languages. Embracing this wealth of diversity, Renaissance Charter School offers a daily "global lab" class, where global history topics are taught in a hands-on way.

On May 28th, the Imagination Award will celebrate the two winning schools with ceremonies at each:

At 9:00 am at PS 115 The Daniel Mucatel School (1500 East 92nd Street, Brooklyn, NY) there will be the presentation of an Imagination Banner to Principal Pinsky, followed by a performance by noted storyteller David Gonzalez and a sharing of students' work.

At 12:45 pm at The Renaissance Charter School (35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY) the Imagination Banner will be presented to co-principals Stacey Gauthier and Gwen Clinkscales by Scott Noppe-Brandon, and student work will be shared.

At 6:00 pm, the day will culminate in a Celebration of the Imagination Award at Lincoln Center's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse (Rose Building, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, 65th Street between Broadway & Amsterdam) which will feature an Imagination Conversation, a panel discussion on innovation and the imagination moderated by Cynthia McFadden of ABC News. McFadden currently co-anchors *Nightline* and *Primetime* on ABC, and she is the network's senior legal correspondent. McFadden has won journalism highest accolade, the Peabody Award, as well nominations for several Emmy awards. Her *Primetime* pieces on the lives of children in America, "Family Lost, Family Found" and "The War Over Kids" are examples of her interest in exploring the issues surrounding American children. Also taking place during the evening event will be a reprise of the award presentations to the two schools and a keynote address by Eric Liu and Scott Noppe-Brandon, co-authors of the forthcoming book, *Imagination*. A reception will follow.

Lincoln Center Institute *for the Arts in Education*, established in 1975 and located in New York City, is the educational cornerstone of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. It is the leading organization in developing skills of observation, imagination, and creativity through guided encounters with the visual and performing arts. Over the past 30 years, Lincoln Center Institute has shared its unique method of education with more than 20 million students, teachers, college professors and arts administrators representing public schools, arts organizations and professional teaching colleges in New York City, across the nation and around the world. See www.lcinstitute.org for more information.

The media is invited to attend all or part of the Imagination Award festivities. Please contact Kate Merlino, 212.875.5101, kmerlino@lincolncenter.org, for directions to the two schools, for photographs or for additional information.

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