

# BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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## Two Charlestown High students awarded new “by students for students” scholarship

*Student entrepreneurs raise \$2,000 in scholarship money to recognize  
graduating seniors with the most school spirit*

**BOSTON** – Two **Charlestown High School** seniors were surprised with \$1,000 scholarships at the school’s graduation ceremony, held recently at Northeastern University’s Matthews Arena. **Jason Burrell** of Roxbury and **Chao Hong “Leo” Lin** of Allston were selected for the award by a group of their fellow students who created the scholarship to honor the graduating seniors who best embody Charlestown High school spirit.

The students, in the school’s Entrepreneurship II class, established the scholarship through C-Town Spirit, a non-profit organization they founded to boost morale and bring a sense of community to Charlestown High School.

“Our business’ mission is to improve school spirit,” said Mavrick Afonso, a graduating senior and outgoing president of C-Town Spirit. “We generated profits by selling promotional products like t-shirts and bags, and making a school clothing line. Instead of splitting our profits, we have combined them with generous donations from local businesses, to offer a scholarship today. This is the first time we offer a scholarship BY students and FOR students.”

The C-Town Spirit students originally thought they would be able to award one scholarship and were faced with a difficult choice between their two top candidates. However, a last minute anonymous \$500 donation from one of their classmates allowed them to recognize both Jason Burrell and Leo Lin.

“We chose Jason Burrell because he makes a strong positive impact in the classroom, in the halls, and on the field,” said Alfonso. “He was co-captain of the football team, ran track and played baseball. His AP Government teacher gave him an award for ‘Most Likely to Be President’; he was elected ‘King’ of Unit B by his classmates; and he MC’d one of our most successful assemblies. Jason contributed ideas for Charlestown t-shirts and hoodies, and he was a friend to both students and teachers.”

“Leo Lin was president of the Asian Students Club and made sure that this year’s Chinese New Year Luncheon was a welcoming event to which all students, including African American, Hispanic, and White, were invited,” said Hazel Pham, a C-Town Spirit student who helped present Leo’s award. “He says ‘Hi’ to everyone in the halls, including students who he doesn’t know. Leo has a great sense of humor and is always enthusiastic and cheerful in school—everyone in the senior class knows that he made Charlestown a happier place.”

While the C-Town Spirit students have graduated, their business will continue in the hands of next year’s Entrepreneurship II class.

“These students have made school spirit their business—literally,” said Superintendent Michael G. Contompasis. “They run C-Town Spirit with a level of sophistication that many companies would envy, and the scholarship award was the culminating event of a year’s worth of work to improve the climate at the school. C-Town Spirit is an example of service learning at its finest.”

*The Boston Public Schools serves nearly 57,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 145 schools, and recently won the Broad Prize for Urban Education as the top city school district in the country. For more information, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org).*