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Alumna's H.S. Band receives Grammy Award

Summary: The Brooklyn Center High School Band, under the direction of Chris Porter '00, receives a Grammy Foundation's Signature School Enterprise Award.

(May 18, 2006)-The Brooklyn Center High School Band, under the direction of Chris Porter '00, is a 2006 Grammy Signature School Enterprise Award honoree. Recipients receive a \$15,000 donation from the Grammy Foundation and the project's sponsor, 7UP.

"The best part of receiving this award was seeing the students work so incredibly hard on recording the CD that was required as part of the finalist application process," shared Porter. "The fact that they earned this honor--despite the major lack of resources and staffing--is truly amazing. I am so incredibly proud of these students for all of their hard work and dedication to the program."

The Enterprise awards recognize top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education even though their programs are economically underserved. From 750 applications, only two schools were chosen for this honor: Brooklyn Center High School and The Duke Ellington School of Arts in Washington, D.C.

"This is a fantastic honor for Chris Porter and the Brooklyn Center Band," stated James Carlson, UMM professor of music and Porter's former director. "Chris has done an outstanding teaching job with her Brooklyn Center musicians and this is a most impressive award for Chris and her musicians to receive."

Since 2002, enrollment in the Brooklyn Center High School band program has increased 361 percent, while the band budget has remained static. Many students cannot afford to rent or purchase instruments. The Grammy grant will be used to purchase school-owned instruments that will allow more students the opportunity to participate in band.

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