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Boston-area high schoolers featured in TV ads on math, science initiative

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 28, 2011 09:23 AM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Two seniors from a Roxbury high school who are featured in national TV commercials about a countrywide math and science initiative will be congratulated Friday morning during an "academic pep rally."



(Courtesy: NMSI, ExxonMobil)

Ana Luisa Abreau, of Roxbury

The John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science will also be awarded \$10,000 from ExxonMobil, sponsor of the [National Math & Science Initiative](#) and its commercial campaign, officials said. The money will support the school's Advanced Placement programs.

Ana Luisa Abreu of Roxbur, and Anthony Antonelli of Hyde Park are profiled in separate ads that began airing earlier this month during the Masters Golf Tournament.

Ana has taken AP courses in chemistry, English language arts, US history, calculus, Spanish, and physics. Her commercial, in Spanish, can be viewed [here](#).

Anthony has take AP courses in chemistry, statistics, physics and calculus. His commercial can be viewed [here](#).



(Courtesy: NMSI, ExxonMobil)

Anthony Antonelli, of Hyde Park

The O'Bryant school's academic pep rally is co-sponsored by the [Mass Math + Science Initiative](#) (MMSI) and ExxonMobil. The event aims "to celebrate the school's gains in Advanced Placement and to encourage students who will take AP exams beginning next week."

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Public high school students across the state will take approximately 56,000 of the college-level AP exams during the first two weeks of May, said the event's announcement.

The Mass Math + Science Initiative is led by the national math and science program and "emphasizes expanding AP access to students underrepresented in math and science study and careers, particularly low-income, black, Hispanic and female students."

Since 2008, it has expanded AP courses in 45 high schools statewide, officials said. An additional 10 Bay State school districts selected to participate in MMSI next year will be announced at the rally.

The event is expected to feature the school's band, cheerleaders, student leaders, teachers, administrators, school district officials, local elected officials and partner organizations' representatives.

AP enrollment at the O'Bryant school has increased by 45 percent in three years, "significantly outpacing average state and national gains," said the announcement. The number of students earning qualifying scores has tripled in both AP chemistry and English language and composition since the program began.

Through public-private partnerships led by donors including Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the National Math and Science Initiative says it was formed in 2007, "to address one of this nation's greatest economic and intellectual threats - the declining number of students who are prepared to take rigorous college courses in math and science and equipped for careers in those fields."

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