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## Basketball tournament in China

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FEATURED PROPERTIES

# provides lasting memory Boston students

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 25, 2012 12:39 PM



Photo: Boston.com / City of Boston

gbo, Boston Community Leadership Academy; Jahwari Christopher, New Mission High School; Kevin Bernardez, Madison Park High School; Kenneth Ramos, East Boston High School; Michael Rufo, Charlestown High School; Devon Nance (white shirt), New

endent

ferent Boston high schools traveled to Beijing last month to compete in a basketball tournament as part of a national effort launched by President Obama to increase and diversify the United States' economic and cultural ties with China.



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Front row, from left to right: James Onui, Boston Community Leadership Academy; Jeremiah E. Burke, Madison Park High School; Andy Poirer, Boston Latin School. Back row, from left to right: Jawhari Dawan-Al, Boston Community Leadership Academy; Jahwari Christopher, New Mission High School.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Eight students from seven different Boston high schools traveled to Beijing last month to play in a basketball tournament as part of a national effort launched by President Barack Obama to increase and diversify the United States' economic and cultural ties with China.

had never traveled internationally before, met  
as M. Menino and Boston Public Schools  
ason at the Parkman House to share their

ts experienced the trip of a lifetime," Menino said  
ey represented Boston and the United States so  
y men are smart, charismatic and were able to  
e world is open to them."

ournament with some of their Chinese peers, the  
ing, learning about the history and culture during  
ng home in mid-December, city school officials

urned so much more than I expected," Kevin  
Madison Park High in Roxbury, said in a  
e Great Wall of China in person and had the  
e Dandelion School, a school for migrant workers'

in School alumnus and business owner working in  
ity to the attention of city and school leaders late

Americans Promoting Study Abroad, a non-profit  
in China.

supplement travel needs for the students, including  
ad Blue Foundation, Brooks Brothers, the Boston  
w Balance, and the Boston Celtics.

d wardrobes and gear: including sneakers,  
jerseys, warm-up jackets, basketballs, and eight  
d-lapel suit jackets to wear during pre- and post-  
g the tournament.

e schools administrators have pushed to give

The eight boys, most of whom  
this week with Mayor Thomas  
Superintendent Carol R. Johr  
experiences.

"It is clear to me these studen  
in a statement. "I'm proud th  
well on this trip. These young  
learn through this trip that th

In addition to playing in the t  
students traveled around Beij  
the 10-day trip before returni  
said.

"This trip was amazing, I lea  
Bernardez, an 11th-grader at  
statement. "We walked on th  
opportunity to volunteer at th  
children."

Tom McCarthy, a Boston Lat  
Beijing, brought the opportur  
last year, school officials said.

The program was funded by  
founded by Americans living

Several sponsors also helped  
Suffolk Construction's Red ar  
Scholar Athlete Program, Nev

The students received donate  
basketball shoes, duffle bags,  
navy, single-breasted, notche  
game press conferences durin

In recent years, Boston public

el, especially male students of color, who,  
are least likely to travel outside of the country with  
as reported.

created an office dedicated to making international  
at little or no expense.

other boys who journeyed to China were:

Dorchester, a 12th-grader at Jeremiah E. Burke

lah, of Dorchester, a 12th-grader at Charlestown

ester, a 12th-grader at New Mission High in

chester, who studies at Boston Community  
Brighton

ester, a 12th-grader at New Mission High

ttapan, who studies at East Boston High

Roxbury, who studies at Boston Latin School in

rochele@gmail.com.

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students more chances to trav  
according to demographics, a  
a student group, [the Globe ha](#)

Last year, the school district c  
travel possible for its students

In addition to Bernandez, the

- Jahkari Christopher, of  
in Dorchester
- Jawhari Dawan-Abdull  
High
- Devon Nance, of Dorch  
Mission Hill
- James Onuigbo, of Dor  
Leadership Academy in
- Andy Pontes, of Dorche
- Kenneth Ramos, of Ma
- Michael Rufo, of West  
the Fenway area

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at [mj](#)

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(City of Boston)

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