



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Crystal W. Ghassemi
St. Mary's Academy
1615 Southwest Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201

Direct: 503-721-7715
Cell: 503-724-8589
Fax: 503-223-0995
Crystal.Ghassemi@StMarysPDX.org
www.stmaryspdx.org

St. Mary's Academy Class of 2010 Earns \$10.3 Million in Merit-Based Scholarships: The Highest Amount in 150 Years of School History *Further Demonstrates the Value of a St. Mary's Education*

Portland, Ore. – **May 26, 2010** – As St. Mary's Academy seniors graduate from high school next Saturday, June 5, they will be making a major, historic milestone. Marked with the distinction of earning the highest merit-based collegiate scholarships in the school's history, the class of 2010 also joins over 10,000 SMA alumnae.

"I am so thankful to the colleges, universities and associations that have so appropriately acknowledged the hard work and accomplishments of our seniors and see their great potential," said SMA Principal Patricia Barr.

Comprised of 147 graduates, this year's graduating class earned \$10.3 million in merit based scholarships, an average of \$70,000 earned by each student. This \$1.7 million increase beyond the \$8.6 million earned by the class of 2009 further conveys the long-term value of a St. Mary's education as collegiate tuition and fees climbed during the 2009-2010 year. According to [College Board](#), the cost of a public, four-year education rose 6.5% and private, four-year institutions rose 4.4%.

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors at St. Mary's Academy voted not to increase the current tuition for the 2010-2011 school year, but to keep tuition at this year's rate. This decision was primarily in response to the increase in number of St. Mary's students requiring tuition assistance.

Tuition for the 2010-2011 year is \$9,800 with a \$100 academic fee totally \$9,900.

"With nearly 40% of our students on financial aid and the state's economic condition, the forward thinking of the SMA Board of Directors to not increase tuition truly reflects their sensitivity to the needs of the students and their parents," said SMA President Christina Friedhoff.

For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Ghassemi, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at 503-724-8589 (cell) , 503-721-7715 (direct office) or crystal.ghassemi@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and one of 716 all-female schools in the country. The student body represents a diverse background of young women from over 30 urban, suburban, and rural communities in Oregon and southwest Washington. St. Mary's Academy is distinguished by its development of the whole person, and is the only school in the state to receive three U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools awards. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit: www.stmaryspdx.org.