



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 Art Teacher, Kathy Mitchell, Named Oregon Art Educator of the Year

Portland, Ore. – **September 29, 2010** – The Oregon Art Education Association (OAEA) named St. Mary's Academy art teacher and alumna Kathy Mitchell as the 2011 **Oregon Art Educator of the Year**. Mitchell will receive her award at the OAEA's fall conference on October 8 at the Portland Art Museum and be nationally recognized at the National Art Education Conference in Seattle in March.

Honored and humbled by the recognition, Mitchell attributes her success to a thriving and supportive fine arts department at St. Mary's where **56% of current students are enrolled in one of 15 art electives** including Concert Choir, Music Theory/Composition, Piano Ensemble, Marian Singers, Dance and Theatre, among others.

"Our students are very involved in the arts and know the importance of creativity in their lives," says Patricia Barr, principal. "Kathy establishes a supportive environment that encourages students to risk and challenge themselves to find the artist within."

Mitchell's work at St. Mary's Academy includes being instrumental in influencing St. Mary's students in the freshman visual arts class, establishing and teaching the Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art class, teaching Calligraphy, Drawing and Photography and advising the Art Club and St. Mary's chapter of the National Art Honor Society.

"The arts can educate and inspire in so many ways, and if I can set the foundation through the classes I teach, then I've accomplished my goal," said Mitchell.

Mitchell begins her 22nd year at St. Mary's this fall, having previously taught at Jesuit High School and St. Ignatius. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Marylhurst University and a Master of Arts in Teaching with an art emphasis from Lewis and Clark College.

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 an all-female Catholic high school and Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school. 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.