



# ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

*Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### St. Mary's Academy Senior Morgan Polk Wins the 2009 Kaiser Permanente African American Professional Association Scholarship



Portland, Ore. – **February 5, 2010** – St. Mary's Academy senior Morgan Polk recently received the 2009 Kaiser Permanente African American Professional Association Scholarship. Awarded to graduating seniors entering the health care profession, the \$1,500 scholarship will go toward Polk's freshman year tuition and fees at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss.

Polk plans to earn a major in biology and minor in art, attend medical school and eventually become an anesthesiologist.

To be qualified for the scholarship, students had to submit a written essay on why they wanted to be in the health care profession. Polk's winning essay describes how her uncle's influence inspired her to enter the health care profession.

"Not only do I plan to perfect this profession, but also I want to be an example to other African American youth or anyone aspiring to enter into the healthcare field," Polk writes. "Not only do I want to be a doctor, but also a teacher to those after me."

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](mailto: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](http://www.stmaryspdx.org).