



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

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St. Mary's Academy Honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Portland, Ore. – **January 25, 2010** – St. Mary's Academy students, faculty and staff honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Thursday, January 18, 2010, with its assembly and slideshow titled "Skin Deep," which included student led dance, poetry and prayer.

"The MLK assembly emphasizes the truism that we are all more alike than different," says Principal Patricia Barr. "Students come together to choose the theme and create the presentation. I always look forward to this assembly because it is the best of the year."

The message of Dr. King took on a personal meaning to St. Mary's as student body demographics were presented, revealing the religious, racial and cultural diversity of the 600 young women. Statistics highlighted that 28% of St. Mary's students are women of color, 51% are of the Catholic religion, 49% are of other faiths and approximately 8.5% of the students were born outside of the United States.

Students also performed native dances from Mexico, Ireland and India.

For more information, please contact Crystal Ghassemi at St. Mary's Academy at 503-721-7715 or directly via cell at 503-724-8589.

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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.