



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

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St. Mary's Academy Board of Directors to Receive Outstanding Board Award from the National Catholic Education Association

Portland, Ore. – March 3 , 2011 – St. Mary's Academy is pleased to announce its 23-member Board of Directors is being recognized by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) as a 2011 Outstanding Board. Distinguished for its substantial contribution to the school's success and in particular its proactive approach in strategic gap identification, the board will accept this prestigious award during the NCEA's 2011 Convention on Wednesday, April 27 in New Orleans, La.

"We are so fortunate to have board members whose personal philosophies and professional expertise align so well with the school's mission, vision and values," said SMA president Christina Friedhoff. "Our recent success and stability are in major part to their commitment and dedication."



In 2008, the Board of Directors conducted a proactive, internal assessment of St. Mary's Academy, which revealed the school was thriving with high employee morale, a new leadership infrastructure, increased enrollment and a high internal quality among students, leadership, faculty, staff and parents. However, with the mantra that excellence requires continuous improvement, the Board identified six strategic gaps that reflected the school's great opportunities for enhancement and advancement.

During the past three years, the board's success includes the creation and implementation of a feasibility study and policy development for an upcoming endowment campaign; strategic and advanced investment approaches for short and long-term financial viability; the Buckman Field Project, a city park renovation with strong community partnerships to secure home fields for soccer and lacrosse teams; comprehensive research and development of a 46,000 sq. ft. athletic complex; extensive brand research for progressive marketing, admissions and development strategies and increased funding for vital professional development.

(more)

St. Mary's Board Wins Outstanding Board Award from NCEA

In recent years, other major accomplishments by the Board of Directors include a \$10 million capital campaign that included a third floor addition to increase class room space, thereby increasing student enrollment capacity, in 2005. Additionally, under Board guidance, the Endowment increased 32% during the previous three years and the school celebrated its longstanding legacy in the Portland community with its 150th anniversary in 2009.

Board members' professions are as diverse as the student population the school serves including chief-level executives, community leaders, philanthropists, policy makers and major corporation leadership in the financial, legal, educational, health care and communications sectors.

As recipients of the award, the Board will also write an article to share their best practices in NCEA publications in 2012, as well as present a session at the 2012 NCEA Convention in Boston, Mass.

For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Ghassemi, APR, Director of Communications, 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.

About National Catholic Education Association

NCEA, founded in 1904, is a professional membership organization that provides leadership, direction and service to fulfill the evangelizing, catechizing and teaching mission of the church. NCEA members include elementary schools, high schools, superintendants, parish religious education programs and seminaries. For more information about NCEA, please visit: <http://www.ncea.org>.