

QUARTERLY INVESTORS' REPORT



Academy at King of Glory



Central Catholic Academy



Holy Trinity Academy



St. Cecilia Academy

From the Executive Director



*"Education is not a preparation for life;
education is life itself." - John Dewey*

Dear ACCESS Academies Investors,

Dewey's notion of learning as an essential skill for life is the foundation of ACCESS Academies' mission: equipping urban core students with the skills to succeed long after earning their diplomas. In the past year, ACCESS students have continued to live up to their promise and potential – thanks to your generous investment:

- Our four embedded NativityMiguel programs now **serve more than 214 middle school students** and **220 ACCESS graduates** now in high school.
- **50 eighth graders** will graduate from the four ACCESS Academies this May and to date, **90 percent** have been accepted to college-prep high schools. (See related story.)
- **All 22 members of the ACCESS class of 2006 are on track to earn their high school diplomas**; several of our seniors have been accepted to such schools as Saint Louis University and University of Missouri-Columbia.
- **Our four-year high school graduation rate is 93 percent** – nearly 25 percent higher than the national average – and 72 percent of ACCESS high school graduates are pursuing post-secondary degrees.

Our students' achievements underscore what is possible when families, teachers and students work together.

In the same spirit of collaboration, ACCESS will partner once again with St. Louis' three independent NativityMiguel middle schools and area college-prep high schools for the second annual St. Louis NativityMiguel Scholarship Fund Dinner on June 17. Without scholarship support from the St. Louis community, many of our qualified graduates could not attend the high-performing schools that put them on track to college. Last year's event raised more than \$270,000 to help with tuition for NativityMiguel graduates enrolled at many of the 21 participating college-prep high schools.

This year, we're raising the bar. With a goal of raising \$325,000, we hope to support not only the 110 members of the NativityMiguel class of 2010, but also renew our financial commitment to the class of 2009 as they enter their sophomore year of high school. Our students' successes are possible thanks to your support and belief in education. Looking forward to seeing you at the St. Louis NativityMiguel Scholarship Fund Dinner!

Thomas M. Nolan

Thomas M. Nolan, Executive Director

Effective College Prep Begins Early

A recent study by the **Bridgespan Group** identified rigorous academic preparation as the most effective way to increase the odds that a low-income student will earn a college degree. The study acknowledged that challenging course work **plus** the following strategies significantly increase students' chances of success in post-secondary education:

1. Set expectations for college attendance.

Students who identify a college degree as an essential tool for success are six times more likely to enroll in and complete a post-secondary education program than those who do not.

2. Create access to information about college requirements.

While many low-income students expect to go to college, they lack an understanding about what academic courses will boost their eligibility and preparedness for collegiate courses.

3. Connect to peer culture.

Students who visit college campuses make a stronger connection to the social and academic opportunities that await, increasing their drive to enroll.

4. Speak to the issue of affordability.

Providing information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities helps to eliminate doubt about overcoming fiscal barriers.

ACCESS in the News



On Feb. 10, 2010, **KMOV Channel 4** featured ACCESS Academies as a shining example of a worthy organization that benefits from the online generosity of the St. Louis community. A recent national study identified St. Louis as the 8th most generous city for online giving in the United States.

Visit www.accessacademies.org to see the video.

Check Your Calendar

06.17.10

The second annual St. Louis NativityMiguel Scholarship Fund Dinner has been **rescheduled** for **Thursday, June 17, 2010** (previously set for June 10). Please mark your calendar to join us at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis-Clayton Hotel from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Invitations to follow.

RSVP online by visiting www.STLNativityMiguel2010.org.



“REMEMBER THAT OUR NATION’S FIRST GREAT LEADERS WERE ALSO OUR FIRST GREAT SCHOLARS.”

JOHN F. KENNEDY

College-Preparatory High School	Students Attending
Bishop DuBourg High School	1
Cardinal Ritter High School	13
Chaminade College Prep	1
Christian Brothers College High School	1
Clyde C. Miller Career Academy	1
Gateway Institute of Technology	1
Lutheran North High School	1
Lutheran South High School	4
Metro High School	2
Nerinx Hall	1
Notre Dame High School	1
Rosati-Kain High School	1
St. Elizabeth Academy	5
St. Mary's High School	4
Trinity High School	5
Ursuline Academy	2
Villa Duchesne	1

Eighth Graders Aim High with Strong Enrollment in College-Prep High Schools

90% of students have been accepted to date at college-prep high schools



“Letter day” has come and gone for St. Louis area eighth graders and ACCESS Academies’ students have reason to celebrate: 90 percent of the class of 2010 has been accepted into college-preparatory high schools.

In total, 50 young men and women will graduate in May from ACCESS Academies’ four faith-based middle schools:

Academy at King of Glory Lutheran School, Central Catholic Academy, Holy Trinity Academy and St. Cecilia Academy. The majority of the students have applied to tuition-charging, college-preparatory high schools. While a few await a response from institutions with later admission dates, 90 percent of those reporting have been accepted to their first choice school.

The 45 accepted students will be attending the college-preparatory high schools noted at left.



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