

ACCESS ACADEMIES



ENDING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION.

STUDENT FACTS

- 85% Qualify for Free and/or Reduced Lunch
- 98% Accepted to College-Prep High Schools
- 99% Graduate On-Time
- 94% Admitted to Post Secondary Institutions

Letter from the Executive Director | An Incredible Summer!

ACCESS Academies has had an unforgettable summer thanks to our supporters, donors, faculty and staff. Because of you, our students have an extraordinary future ahead of them filled with academics and enrichment, and we continue to grow as an organization.

This summer, beginning in June, approximately 50 Academy graduates from the six NativityMiguel schools began their individual college journeys through a week-long college immersion experience at St. Louis University. Courses taught students how to search for careers and colleges; apply for admissions and FAFSA; and work on their essay and resume writing, interview skills, etc.

During that time, more than 100 current Academy students at our three Archdiocesan partner schools spent three weeks in summer school as part of our extended school-year program.

Next, in July, we moved our headquarters to the campus of St. Louis University! It has been an exciting transition for ACCESS Academies, and we look forward to visitors stopping by to check out our new location at Wuller Hall-Suite #222, 3672 West Pine Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108 (NOTE– this is our physical address only!)

Also, during the move, ACCESS Academies received an award letter from the Employees Community Fund (ECF) of Boeing St. Louis with a \$10,000 grant in endorsement of our Graduate Support Program. We are honored by their support and have already put the monies to good use!

Finally, school kicked off August 12, and we are proud to announce that 145 students were enrolled in the Academy programs on the first day of school at our three Archdiocesan partner schools! This semester we are also supporting more than 30 enrichment programs as part of the extended school-day program.

As we look forward to the future, plans are underway for our annual “Give the Gift of Brilliance” Holiday Party! Keep a lookout as invitations will come out soon.

If I haven’t said it enough, many thanks for your support in helping end the cycle of poverty through education. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly by calling (314) 898-0430 or via email at Betsy.Liberatore@ACCESSacademies.org.

All the best,

Betsy Liberatore





Betsy Liberatore | Executive Director

Most Holy Trinity School & Academy |

St. Cecilia School & Academy |

St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Father Richard Creason Honored with the Robert O. Kortkamp Humanitarian Award

At an awards ceremony on June 11th, Father Creason, Pastor at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church and ACCESS board member, was presented the Kortkamp Humanitarian Award by the Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans.

Creason was given the award by Tom Hadican, a long-time friend who stated: "Father Creason has brought peace, hope, love and joy to every community he's served, and he's been successful," Hadican said. "He's also been instrumental in delivering working families justice, dignity and fairness in the workforce."

Alan "Al" Winkelmann has Retired!

Al Winkelmann, Associate Superintendent for Elementary School Administration for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and active member of the ACCESS Academies Board of Directors, has retired after 30+ combined years of service to our community.

"Al is a role model for living your faith. By using the teachings of the Catholic church, he has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of education in our faith-based schools while expanding services and support to students and families in need. It is no surprise that his accolades outnumber his successes, and we wish him a peaceful retirement," said John Vatterott, Board President.

3 New Catholic Education Leaders Welcomed to Board of Directors

ACCESS Academies would like to welcome the following new members to our Board of Directors!

Maureen DePriest, Associate Superintendent for Elementary School Administration for the Catholic Education Office-St. Louis Archdiocese.

DePriest served as a Catholic educator for more than 20 years. After leaving the classroom, she served as principal of Notre Dame Catholic School before becoming the founding principal of St. Frances Cabrini. Later, she served as the Director of Mission Schools and Special Projects with the Archdiocesan Catholic Education Office before earning her way into her current role.

Father Christopher Collins, SJ, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies and Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity at St. Louis University.

Father Collins also serves as a member of the Peace and Justice Commission, working to address societal issues such as poverty, racial tension and the lack of educational opportunities from a Catholic perspective.

Terry Mehan, Associate Graduate Support Director-St. Cecilia School & Academy.

Since the late 90's, Mehan has advocated on behalf of students in Catholic schools. First as the Associate Director at Loyola Academy then as Director of Development for Christian Brothers College High School. He then joined ACCESS as the Director of Development from 2006-2011 before moving St. Cecilia to counsel and mentor students through high school, and into college or post-secondary programs.

7th Annual Scholarship Dinner Breaks Fundraising Record!

Over 500 guests attended the 7th annual Scholarship Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel-St. Louis, raising above \$580,000 in high school tuition dollars for more than 300 Natividad Miguel graduates from the dinner's six partner schools.

Details, including party pictures, a copy of Maria's student testimonial, the dinner video, and more, can be accessed via our website at www.ACCESSAcademies.org!



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