

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% Are Admitted to Post-Secondary Institutions

Letter from the Executive Director | What it Takes

The 7th Annual Scholarship Dinner is rapidly approaching! This year, the dinner will be held June 3rd, 6:00-9:00PM, at the Four Seasons Hotel-St. Louis. It is going to be a wonderful program, and I would like to thank Bo Mehan and Kim Norwood for serving as our emcees as well as Jim Holloran and Mike Richter for leading the Fund-a-Need Appeal.

Dinner invitations were mailed out in April and RSVP's continue to come in daily. This year, because high school tuitions are increasing, as well as the number of students who receive scholarship dollars, we hope to exceed the \$560,000 raised during last year's Fund-A-Need appeal.

Next, earlier in the year Donna Garcia, principal of St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral, announced that she would not be returning for the 2015-16 school year. A search led by Mr. Alan Winkelmann, Associate Superintendent of Elementary School Administration-Archdiocese of St. Louis, with Maureen DePriest, Director of Mission Schools and Special Projects-Archdiocese of St. Louis, began shortly thereafter to find a new principal, and we are happy to announce that Jason Otte has been selected.

An exceptional Catholic educator, with several years' experience working with middle and high school students, Otte currently serves as the Dean of Students and the Technology Coordinator for Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School. We look forward to welcoming him as the principal on July 1, 2015.

Lastly, it is with personal regret, but warm wishes that we announce Edith Cunnane's retirement from the Board of Directors.

Edith joined ACCESS Academies in 2005 as a founding board member, bringing 30 years of experience working with individuals and families impacted by poverty. She was instrumental in developing our program and guiding our mission, and her counsel will be missed.

Edith began her professional career as a social worker before starting the St. Patrick Center. Her trailblazing work includes pioneering the nation's first day-program to treat mentally-ill homeless people, and then expanding operations to provide housing assistance, employment services and life skills training. After retiring as the Executive Director, Cunnane joined the St. Patrick Center's Board of Directors, where she has continued her work as an advocate and philanthropist.

Thank you again for your support. Should you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly by calling (314) 898-0430 or emailing Betsy.Liberatore@ACCESSAcademies.org.

With gratitude,

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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CLASS OF 2019 HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

John Simon Presented with Distinguished Lawyer Award

ACCESS Academies would like to congratulate John Simon, who was presented the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) Distinguished Lawyer Award at an awards luncheon held May 1st at the Four Seasons Hotel-St. Louis.

A St. Louis native, John Simon is a proud graduate of St. Mary's High School. He received both his undergraduate (1983) and law degree (1986) from Saint Louis University. Shortly after graduating he opened the Simon Law Firm, and has earned more than 100 personal injury verdicts and settlements over \$1 million. What's more, John secured the highest verdict in the State of Missouri for two consecutive years.

Because of his belief in the civil justice system, John also serves as an adjunct professor in Trial Advocacy at Saint Louis University's School of Law, where he has taught since 2000.

John maintains a Martindale-Hubbell AV® Rating from his peers, and was inducted into the Inner Circle of Advocates (2014). In 2015, John was also named U.S. News-Best Lawyers in America® St. Louis Lawyer of the Year, Defective Products, and the American Society of Legal Advocates top 100 Litigation Lawyers in Missouri.

John Simon has served on the ACCESS Academies Board of Directors since 2005.



Tayon H. will be attending CBC next Fall!

More than 45 eighth grade students served by ACCESS Academies this year were accepted to the following private, college-preparatory high schools:

- Althoff Catholic High School
- Bishop DuBourg High School
- Cardinal Ritter College-Prep
- Chaminade College-Prep School
- Christian Brothers College
- Cor Jesu Academy
- De Smet Jesuit High School
- Incarnate Word Academy
- Lutheran- North
- Lutheran- South
- Nerinx Hall
- Notre Dame High School
- Rosati Kain High School
- St. John Vianney High School
- St. Joseph's Academy
- St. Louis Christian Academy
- St. Louis University High School
- St. Mary's High School
- Trinity Catholic High School
- Ursuline Academy
- Villa Duchesne High School

Marie Kenyon Named Director of Peace & Justice Commission

KENYON TO ADDRESS ISSUES SUCH AS POVERTY, RACIAL TENSION & EDUCATION

In January, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson named Marie Kenyon the director of the newly-formed Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The goal of the commission is to address societal issues such as poverty, racial tension and the lack of educational opportunities from a Catholic perspective.

The commission was among several initiatives the Archbishop announced at a Mass for Peace and Justice at the Cathedral Basilica following the death of Michael Brown.

"I urge this new Commission to assist the citizens and public officials throughout all 11 counties of our Archdiocese in the effort to achieve peace and justice for all." Carlson said in a statement.

Previously, Kenyon served as the founder/director for the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry, which provides free family and immigration legal representation to low-income clients. Annually, the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry litigates on approximately fourteen hundred civil law cases.

Kenyon holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Bradley University and graduated from the Saint Louis University School of Law. She is a past president of the St. Louis Bar Foundation and Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, and has served on the Missouri Bar's Gender and Justice Task Force, the Women's Place board and the Economic Justice Task Force of the Missouri Catholic Conference.

Kenyon has served on the ACCESS Board of Directors since 2005.

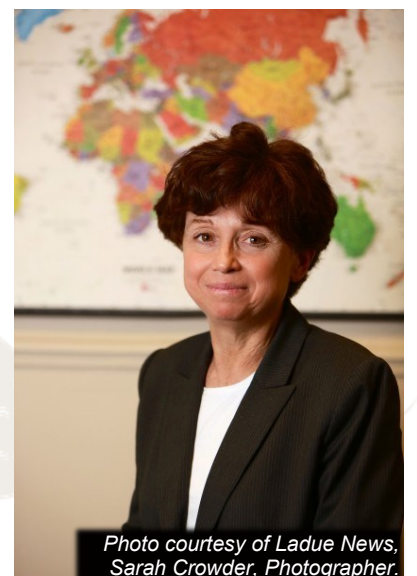


Photo courtesy of Ladue News, Sarah Crowder, Photographer.



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