

QUARTERLY INVESTORS' REPORT



Academy at King of Glory



Central Catholic Academy

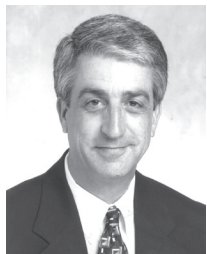


Holy Trinity Academy



St. Cecilia Academy

From the Executive Director



"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." - Benjamin Franklin

Dear ACCESS Academies Investors,

If you were offered an investment opportunity that delivered a 95% return, would you be interested? A 93% return? Or a 71% return on that investment? Your generous contributions to the students of ACCESS Academies are producing these high yields in communities throughout our region's urban core.

Since 2005, ACCESS has invested nearly \$6 million in rigorous academic preparation and spiritual development of students in neighborhoods where 61% of children live in single-parent households and 79% qualify for federal free/reduced lunch. The subsequent benefits are astounding:

- **95%** of the ACCESS Academy graduates to date have been accepted to college-prep high schools.
- **93%** have earned their high school diploma in 4 years.
- **71%** have advanced to college, university study or a post-secondary program.

Yet the greater return is much more than a high school or college diploma. The positive effect of each successful student on his or her community is uplifting.

- **Luis** (St. Cecilia '06 and St. Louis University High School '10) volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, serving as a role model for young children in his neighborhood. (See related story.)
- **Charrae** (Central Catholic '07 and Cardinal Ritter College Prep '11) serves others through National Honor Society and her high school's Sisterhood club, a group dedicated to promoting cooperation and community leadership among women.
- **DeJuan** (Central Catholic '10) looks forward to volunteering on Christian Service Saturdays at Central Catholic because it brings his parish family together.

All of us associated with ACCESS are deeply grateful to our supporters. Your generosity and confident investment in the future gird the foundation of our success. Thank you for helping our young women and men develop the tools needed to create the profound return on education described by Benjamin Franklin.

Thomas M. Nolan

Thomas M. Nolan
Executive Director

Graduate Profile: Luis Llanos

Self Discipline and Family Support Bring Academic Success



St. Louis University High School (SLUH) senior **Luis Llanos** doesn't want to miss a minute of his college-prep high school experience. He skillfully balances his duties as a SLUH presidential ambassador, diversity club leader, STUCO rep and National Honor Society member with a rigorous class schedule that includes an Advanced Placement calculus course. Thanks to support from his family and the time management and study skills developed while attending **St. Cecilia Academy**, Luis maintains a high grade point average and still has time to volunteer at Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri.

"I know there are big things in my future."

"It was tough learning to balance the accelerated class work and extracurricular activities my freshman year," Luis says. "The extended days at St. Cecilia helped me develop strong study skills like doing homework right after school, keeping organized and turning everything in on time. It really paid off when the classes became more challenging."

Luis' parents and teachers have long known that he had the tools to succeed

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in a demanding college-preparatory atmosphere. Within months of opening the first ACCESS Academy at St. Cecilia, Luis' seventh grade teacher, Ms. Lowali, introduced him to Rob Evans, SLUH's diversity director. Luis says something clicked at that first meeting and he began to consider college-prep education more seriously.

"My parents encouraged me to explore all of my options, but deep down, everyone knew that SLUH was the best fit for me," he says. "It has been a great place for me to learn and grow both academically and emotionally."

With high school graduation fast approaching, Luis has been exploring engineering and business programs at some of the nation's top colleges and universities. He and his family have visited such campuses as Notre Dame, Purdue, Northwestern, Colorado School of Mines and Technology, Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis.

"I want to experience as much as I can," Luis describes. "I know there are big things in my future."

Save The Date

The second annual **St. Louis NativityMiguel Scholarship Fund** dinner will be Thursday, June 10, 2010. Location to be announced.



“UPON THE SUBJECT OF EDUCATION ... I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I VIEW IT AS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT WHICH WE AS A PEOPLE MAY BE ENGAGED IN.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Benefits of a Longer School Day

A hallmark of ACCESS schools is more intense education through extended school days (averaging 9.5 hours) and extended school years (averaging 10.5 months). Research proves that the extra hours in the classroom have a profound impact on student learning.

- Students are exposed to a wider variety of subjects and enrichment activities, including music, the arts and physical education. According to Christopher Gabrieli and Warren Goldstein, authors of *Time to Learn: How a New School Schedule is Making Smarter Kids, Happier Parents and Safer Neighborhoods*, moving beyond classroom basics helps to encourage both social and emotional learning.
- In a study of Massachusetts elementary and middle schools, students who attended school for

an additional two hours per day saw average standardized test scores jump 44 percent in math, 19 percent in science and 39 percent in English language arts the next year.

- The landmark federal report, *A Nation at Risk*, noted the increasing achievement gap between American school children and several higher-performing European and Asian nations. Top-achieving countries consistently used an extended school day as well as a longer school year.

ACCESS in the News



CNN visited one of St. Cecilia's unique fish fries featuring traditional Mexican dishes to highlight how the growth of close-knit American Latino communities is helping to sustain the Catholic Church. The story and accompanying video are part of CNN's continuing series, *Latino in America*.

A New Way to Give

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