



Enrichment ~ Counseling ~ Scholarships

We are excited to share several wonderful updates and announcements with our supporters!

Did You Know?

Wow! **212** high school students have benefitted this year from tuition scholarships funded by ACCESS donors!

55 8th graders will be graduating next month from our Academies at Most Holy Trinity, St. Cecilia, and St. Louis Catholic Academy and will attend one of our 24 partner high schools this fall.

College Exposure Begins in Middle School & Continues Through High School

To help our students realize college is an obtainable goal, we took students on several college campus tours to Fontbonne University, Ranken Technical College, Maryville University, and Saint Louis University. By setting college expectations early, it increases their academic performance in high school and the probability of earning acceptance to their first-choice college.

During our campus tour at Fontbonne University, Kendal and Aniya, two Academy graduates from Most Holy Trinity, met with admissions counselors and applied. Both were accepted and will be attending in the Fall!

Connecting Academy Students to Careers

Our curriculum program, ACCESS Academies Young Professionals, is hosting a speaker series called “Connecting with Career Professionals” to help students make the connection from school to work. Guest presenters discuss their careers, educational backgrounds, and professional aspirations. Students have enjoyed meeting with and learning from area professionals from Boeing, GlobalHack, U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation, and Washington University, among others!



Graduate Support Director, Joslyn Sandford (center) pictured with Jasia, a senior at the University of Miami, and Lavaughn, a freshman at Bradley University.



ACCESS to Offer Summer School at Three Academies

This coming June, Academy students will be attending our Summer Academy program focused on reading, grammar, and math to boost student comprehension and performance during the next academic year.

SLU Summer Scholars

ACCESS juniors and seniors are excited to attend the SLU Summer Scholars program held on the campus of St. Louis University! Now in its 9th year, the program offers students the opportunity to prepare for college through actual experience on a university campus. Students reside in dormitories, complete college applications and essays, continue ACT test prep, and practice interview skills.

What's New?

New Board Members Join Our Team

We are thrilled to welcome **Gus Gast**, a partner at Moneta Group Investment Advisors, and **Pat Erb**, who retired as Director of Marketing at Nestle Purina, as the newest members of our governing board.

Expanding Our Student Support into College

We are expanding our program to more actively support our graduates transitioning from high school into and through college/post-secondary programs, and eventually into career employment. We are seeking a full-time College and Career Counselor to lead this effort.

New Academy to Open at Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School this Fall

ACCESS is thrilled to partner with Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School in East St. Louis to open a new Academy this coming fall! Over 90% of the school's population qualifies for free/reduced lunch and 99% are minority students.

ACCESS Academies—Propelling low-income, first-generation students to college and career success! Learn more by visiting our website www.ACCESSacademies.org





Gabe Pursuing Masters in Biomedical Engineering

Gabe, an ACCESS graduate from St. Cecilia Academy and alumnus of St. Louis University High School, will be graduating this spring with a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering from Saint Louis University.

"I chose Biomedical Engineering because I've always wanted to be able to improve the health of others via technological advancement. After working in this field for 20-30 years, I really want to be a high school or college teacher. This may seem like a weird aspiration, but I've always loved tutoring/helping others with school work and I feel like I would be a fun teacher."

Gabe will be pursuing his Masters in Biomedical Engineering this coming fall at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.



Aniya Attending Fontbonne University this Fall

Aniya is an ACCESS graduate from Most Holy Trinity School & Academy currently attending Trinity Catholic High School, where she is active in the Diversity Club. She also enjoys interacting with younger students and has been involved with our ACCESS Give Back Work Study program for the past two years.

According to Nick McDowell, Aniya's Graduate Support Director, she *"has been an asset to the program and a leader among her peers. She has been a great role model for the younger students through the work study program, and very proactive about her approach to her post-secondary options."*

Aniya will be attending Fontbonne University in the fall and plans to take several finance and business courses



Erika Awarded Almost \$30K in College Scholarships

Erika, an ACCESS graduate from St. Cecilia, is a senior at Nerinx Hall, and an aspiring animator and has earned several awards for her art portfolio.

"Erika is such an incredible young woman: driven, selfless, funny, creative, and intelligent. She's the first person I think to ask when we need help around school. Whether it's tutoring a middle schooler or painting a mural, she's always willing to help out when you need her. She's humble about her talents and achievements (which are many), optimistic even when obstacles seem insurmountable, and thoughtful in her words and interactions with others," described Heidi Klosterman, Graduate Support Director, St. Cecilia School & Academy.

Erika has been accepted to Maryville University, Columbia College, Savannah College of Art & Design, and Truman University.



Claire Recognized as 'A' Student by Post Dispatch

Claire, an ACCESS graduate from St. Louis the King, is a senior at Incarnate Word Academy, where she is actively involved in theater. She also was named a 2018 'A' Student by the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Claire works at the St. Louis Art Museum and University City Public Library.

According to Joslyn Sandford, Claire's Graduate Support Director, *"Her family has been through a lot financially and emotionally, and Claire's motivation for success will never show any of it. She has pushed through it all and still managed to keep her grades up while being involved in activities and leadership roles at Incarnate."*

Claire has been accepted to Bradley University, Truman State University, and Evansville University, and plans to study creative writing, communications, or marketing.

Please join us as we celebrate our graduates and their achievements at the

ACCESS 10TH ANNUAL
ACADEMIES CELEBRATION DINNER
Sponsored by the *Vatterott Foundation*

Wednesday, June 6, 2018
6 PM - 9 PM

Four Seasons Hotel - St. Louis

To attend, call (314) 898-0430 ext. 4 or visit

ACCESSacademies.org/dinner/