



Press Release

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St. Cecilia Academy students stretch their wings & prepare to fly

College acceptances are starting to arrive at St. Cecilia Academy, where this year's seniors have already earned acceptances to Georgetown University, Boston College, Case Western Reserve University, Providence College, Tulane University, Howard University, Villanova University, Baylor University, University of Georgia, Purdue University, Southern Methodist University, University of North Carolina, University of Illinois and Miami University of Ohio – to name just a few. The 56-member class has, to date, submitted more than 400 applications to 145 different colleges across the country.

“We encourage students to explore all sorts of college options,” says College Counselor Diane Connolly. “We like to say that we give our students roots and wings -- strong roots of faith and academic excellence, and strong wings to carry them as far and as high as they want to go.”

Colleges closer to home are also in the mix, but Connolly says she and Principal Sister Mary Thomas, O.P., are especially proud of the way the students have embraced the college search process to think “outside the box” and find schools that best fit them personally. This year's 150th graduating class has applied to colleges from New Hampshire to California, from Minnesota to Louisiana – and many, many points in between.

St. Cecilia's college counseling program emphasizes a highly personal approach, with structured and sequential college programs beginning in the sophomore year. Small-group workshops, full-day college programs, individual student meetings, test prep sessions, Parent College Nights, and special events like Financial Aid Night, Mock Admissions Committees, Weekend Work Days, the Catholic College Fair and Red Carpet Week – with more than 100 colleges in attendance this year – provide many opportunities for college exploration and support.

St. Cecilia Academy is Nashville's oldest private high school founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. The Academy has been named to the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list five times since 2004. Eighty-five percent of the 53 Class of 2010 members were offered college scholarships totaling \$5.5 million. That equals an average of over \$100,000 in offered college scholarships per graduate.

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