



## Press Release

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## SCA students attend green energy conference in Asheville, NC

Marcela Gomez and Kaitlin Cockerham, St. Cecilia Academy senior environmental club officers, recently attended the Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference in Asheville, NC. More than 400 students came together to attend workshops, listen to inspiring speakers and connect with students within their state network. The majority of students who attended the conference came from colleges across the Southeast. TennYEN (Tennessee Youth Environmental Network) was the only group of high school students represented at the conference. Marcela and Kaitlin received a scholarship to attend the conference from the Sierra Club of Tennessee.

“SSREC not only gave us great ideas, but showed us how to make our ideas for SCA’s environmental club a reality” said Kaitlin. “During SCA’s leadership workshop this past August we came up with ideas for the year. This conference helped us build upon those ideas.”

“We have the Sierra Club of Tennessee to thank for this exciting opportunity,” said Marcela. “We met wonderful people from across the Southeast.”

The St. Cecilia Academy environmental club raises awareness of environmental concerns to the SCA community and works with surrounding high schools to discuss methods of environmental sustainability.

The club is currently responsible for all the recycling within the school. Marcela and Kaitlin left the conference with goals of adding to the SCA recycling program and starting some environmental sustainability activities with the club that could in turn benefit St. Cecilia and the surrounding community.

The SSREC empowers youth leaders to make a stand and take action on complex challenges of the 21st century. The conference highlighted problems and solutions to issues surrounding energy, the economy, and the environment. Their purpose is to identify and defray the systemic injustices that inhibit transformational progress on these issues in the Southeast, the United States, and worldwide. Through an assortment of workshops, trainings, and speakers, youth from across the region engaged in a participatory process of skill-building and strategizing for a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable planet.

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. Ninety-one percent of the Class of 2011 members were offered college scholarships totaling \$7.2 million. SCA is also home to the state volleyball runner up championship team and the state cross country third place championship team.

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