



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Creating Challenging Education for St. Louis Students

Annual Report
2013-2014

Most Holy Trinity School & Academy * St. Cecilia School & Academy * St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral



MISSION

ACCESS Academies (Academies Creating Challenging Education for St. Louis Students) is a not-for-profit corporation established to ensure that socially-and/or economically-disadvantaged students in the St. Louis area have access to top-quality, values-based education, regardless of race, ethnicity or religious affiliation. It employs the NativityMiguel model of education and collaborates with individuals and organizations to ensure the ongoing success of its students.

ACCESS Academies partners with three Archdiocesan middle schools:

- * Most Holy Trinity School & Academy, 1435 Mallinckrodt St., 63107
- * St. Cecilia School & Academy, 906 Eichelberger St., 63111
- * St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral, 4430 Maryland Ave., 63108

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Director of Mission Effectiveness

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Graduate Support Director
Most Holy Trinity School & Academy

Joslyn Sandford
Graduate Support Director
St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral

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Graduate Support Director
St. Cecilia School & Academy

Terry Mehan
Associate Director of Graduate Support
St. Cecilia School & Academy

Ani Heaton
Academy and Graduate Support Assistant
Volunteer Coordinator
St. Cecilia School & Academy

“I am not only the first in my family to go to college, I am the first in my family to complete high school.” –Lupita, sophomore, UMSL

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of ACCESS Academies, our collective staff and Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for supporting our mission. To date, more than 600 students and their families have been impacted by our program and your generosity.

This year marks our tenth anniversary, and as I read the profound statement from Lupita, which represents her experiences as well as the experiences of countless ACCESS Academy graduates, I am thankful to be a part of our students’ lives and humbled to share in their moments.

Our students are flourishing in our robust middle school program, which includes a comprehensive curriculum, homework assistance, service projects and enrichment classes. More importantly, it encourages family involvement to support the development of each student.

After they leave middle school, our Graduate Support Director is there to ease them through the transition into high school. This includes a variety of support to ensure each student’s academic growth and achievement. For our students, the Graduate Support Directors are more than just teachers- they are mentors, tutors, friends, and even honorary members of the student’s family.

More than 85% of our student population qualifies for federal poverty programs such as free/reduced lunch; however, with your support, and a dedicated staff, we have achieved the following results since our launch in 2005:

- *98% of ACCESS eighth grade graduates have been accepted to college-prep high schools*
- *99% of ACCESS students in the Graduate Support program graduate on-time*
- *94% of ACCESS graduates have been accepted to a post-secondary educational institution*

Thank you for continuing to support and invest in ACCESS. With your help, hundreds of students will be served in our Academies over the years to come.

For a school visit, or to learn more about ACCESS Academies, please contact me by calling (314)898-0430 or by emailing Betsy.Liberatore@ACCESSacademies.org

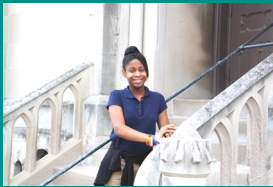
In gratitude,

Betsy Liberatore

*Betsy Liberatore
Executive Director*



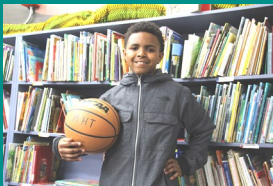
ACCESS Academies Students of the Month



Janayla C., 6th grade, Most Holy Trinity
She is always on top of her work, has great attendance, shows great leadership, and exhibits maturity when making decisions. *(September)*



Erica G., 7th grade, Most Holy Trinity
A motivated student, her personal goal is to pass all of her Accelerated Reading goals. As a result, she is reading and testing at a 10th grade level. *(October)*



Stanley D., 7th grade, Most Holy Trinity
The Treasurer of the school's Student Council, he hopes to attend Christian Brothers College before going to college and studying Engineering. *(November)*



Brianni T., 7th grade, Most Holy Trinity
A passionate and hardworking student, she wants to become a Child Advocate and help defend kids against injustices and fight for their rights. *(December)*



Anthony J., 6th grade, St. Louis the King
Through the Academy, he plays football, basketball, track, and is learning chess. He also excels academically, especially in Mathematics. *(September)*



Shawn E., 8th grade, St. Louis the King
He is mastering Public Speaking, learning to lead in Man Up, building in Robotics, and tackling challenges in High School Prep. *(October)*



Jada D., 7th grade, St. Louis the King
Her proudest moment (so far!) is earning one of the highest IOWA test scores in her school. *(December)*



Omar C., 8th grade, St. Cecilia
Through the Academy, he is involved in two very demanding after school programs, Yearbook (photography and editing) and Printmaking. *(September)*



Gretchen M., 7th grade, St. Cecilia
She aspires to be a teacher, like her father, and attend Lutheran South, the same school as her two older brothers. *(October)*



Leslie V., 6th grade, St. Cecilia
Actively involved in several enrichment programs through the Academy, she earned the "Graciela Hartenbach Memorial Scholarship." *(November)*



Jordyn H., 7th grade, St. Cecilia
His favorite memories are running in the school's 5K, going to Camp Lakewood, attending the Honor Roll party, and serving on the StuCo. *(December)*

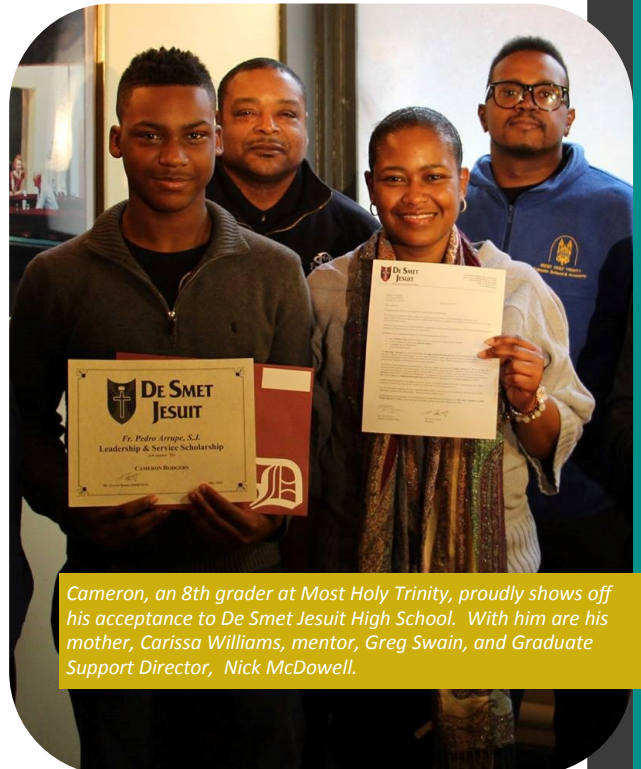
ACCESS Academies Donations

The fulfillment of our students' aspirations to achieve would be impossible without you, our generous donors. Your gifts nurture the talents to be developed within each student through the power of education. On behalf of the students and community we serve, our 2013-2014 Annual Report is dedicated to you. *Donations noted were received from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014.*

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Cameron, an 8th grader at Most Holy Trinity, proudly shows off his acceptance to De Smet Jesuit High School. With him are his mother, Carissa Williams, mentor, Greg Swain, and Graduate Support Director, Nick McDowell.

2014 Career & College Ready



College Tours

85% of ACCESS students qualify for free/reduced lunch

Comparison: 48.1% of public school students nationally qualify for free/reduced lunch programs. At St. Louis Public Schools, 88.4% qualify.

99% of ACCESS students in the Graduate Support program graduate on-time

Comparison: St. Louis Public School District's 2014 high school on-time graduation rate was 71.3%

ACCESS student demographics (diversity)

- 62% African-American
- 28% Hispanic

Comparison: According to the National Catholic Educational Association's 2014 report, the racial diversity of its member schools is 19.8%

98% of ACCESS students are admitted to college preparatory high schools

Comparison: According to National Center for Educational Statistics-Private School Universe Survey, 8.9% of African-American and 10% of Hispanic students were attending private schools.

94% of ACCESS students are admitted to a post-secondary institution

Comparison: 64% of St. Louis Public School 2014 graduates are admitted to a post-secondary institution.



NativityMiguel Summer Scholars



Career-a-Palooza

High School Scholarship Donations

The annual Scholarship Fund Dinner raises high school tuition dollars for more than 300 graduates from Most Holy Trinity Academy, St. Cecilia Academy, and St. Louis the King at the Cathedral, as well as three independent schools: De La Salle Middle School, Loyola Academy, Marian Middle School. The Scholarship Dinner also maintains its commitment to two schools that have closed: The Academy at King of Glory Lutheran School and Central Catholic Academy.

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 American Trade School
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 Matt Barry
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Continue on page 8...

High School Scholarship Donations—Continued

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 St. Louis the King School at the
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 St. Louis University High School
 St. Mary's High School
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Over \$559,000 in scholarships raised in 2014.



Tutor as positive male role model

Reprinted with permission from *The St. Louis American* 2014 Diversity edition.



As a youngster, Nick McDowell wanted to be a criminal defense attorney and be an advocate for individuals who had made serious mistakes in their lives.

Now, McDowell is an advocate and mentor for students in grades 6-12 whose aim is to not only prevent them from making similar mistakes, but also to encourage them to remain in and thrive in school.

McDowell is a Graduate Support Director at Most Holy Trinity School and Academy, 1435 Mallinckrodt Street in the Hyde Park neighborhood. After joining the staff in June, McDowell, 31, works in the extended school day program at the middle school level. He also provides tutoring, mentoring, counseling and other forms of assistance to Most Holy Trinity graduates through their high school years.

"Nick brings the passion and energy needed to best support the students and alumni of Most Holy Trinity," said Jessica Kilmade, principal at Most Holy Trinity.

"He is an advocate for our young men and women, and fosters within them the drive to achieve their goals. Students relate to Nick and value his opinion. Families trust he is working in the best interest of their children."

McDowell envisioned himself in the courtroom because several family members, including his father, have or continue to serve time in prison. His career aspirations changed, however.

"As I got older, I realized that trying to save those who already committed crimes was being reactive. If I were proactive, I could prevent individuals from making mistakes," he said. "It only felt right that I start with those who were most impressionable – the youth."

McDowell, who attended Webster Groves High School and Harris Stowe State University, has worked for local nonprofits as well as for St. Louis Public Schools and the Jennings School District.

Most recently, he worked as an afterschool director for Provident Counseling to improve the mental and behavioral health of school-aged children in urban settings.

"While working in different programs, I noticed the lack of male teachers in the school system," he said. "I learned that the students responded differently to male teachers, and that male teachers were in high demand. I feel that being a positive role model, an advocate for youth, an ear for them to speak freely and debrief from situations is very important."

Most Holy Trinity is one of three ACCESS Academies (www.accessacademies.org) in St. Louis.

Founded in 2005, ACCESS Academies serve socially/economically disadvantaged students in faith-based schools in St. Louis. Their mission is to build a solid and supportive academic foundation for these students during the challenging middle school years that prepares them to succeed in high school. Using the NativityMiguel model of 10 hour school days, a 10 1/2 month school year, and significant teacher and parental involvement, 98 percent of ACCESS graduates are accepted into college-prep high schools.

"Every child deserves a high quality education. ACCESS ensures that socially and/ or economically disadvantaged students have access to top-quality, values-based education, regardless of race, ethnicity or religious affiliation," said Blake Youde, Executive Director of ACCESS Academies.

"Every student at every school we serve is part of the program. As a result, our student body includes a variety of races, ethnicities, religious affiliations and income levels."

McDowell felt that a small school with a family feeling and a "big heart" is where he needed to be.

"Each person within the school supports one another and works through problems as a team," he said.

"As a first generation college student myself, I understand what some of our families face. Unlike a traditional school environment, the Graduate Support program serves as a source of stability for students and families. They have someone to work one-on-one with them regarding their educational needs and, in some cases, just life in general."

McDowell mentors youngsters through the Alpha Eta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. A former semiprofessional football player for Gateway Soul and the St. Louis Saints, McDowell has coached youth sports in Webster Groves, Jennings, and with the St. Louis Public Schools. He also serves as a youth minister at New Beginnings Full Gospel Church. These activities have given McDowell the opportunity to build relationships with kids while setting boundaries and earning respect as a mentor.

McDowell, who grew up in the Murphy Blair Apartments and now has three young children, hopes to serve as the role model and mentor he lacked in his youth.

"Most Holy Trinity is located close to where I grew up," McDowell said. "And I feel that I am giving back to my community by supporting the work done in the area."

HIGH SCHOOLS ACCEPTING ACCESS GRADUATES

- *Bishop DuBourg High School
- *Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School
- *Carnahan High School of the Future
- *Central Visual & Performing Arts High School
- *Chaminade College Preparatory High School
- *Christian Brothers College High School
- *Cleveland NJROTC High School
- *Clyde C. Miller Career Academy
- *Collinsville Christian Academy
- *Cor Jesu Academy

- *Crossroads College Prep School
- *De Smet Jesuit High School
- *Gateway STEM High School
- *Lutheran High School North
- *Lutheran High School South
- *Metro Academic & Classical High School
- *Nerinx Hall High School
- *North County Christian School
- *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
- *Tower Grove Christian Academy
- *Trinity Catholic High School
- *Ursuline Academy
- *Villa Duchesne & Oak Hill School

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Most Holy Trinity School & Academy



St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral



St. Cecilia School & Academy

Financial Report 2013-2014

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014

INCOME

Contributions – ACCESS Academies.....	\$848,640
Contributions – High School Scholarships.....	\$559,541
Total Contributions	\$1,408,181

EXPENSES/STUDENT SUPPORT EXPENSES/MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY/GRADUATE SUPPORT

St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral.....	\$80,060
St. Cecilia School & Academy.....	\$67,819
Most Holy Trinity School & Academy.....	\$90,529
Ancillary School Support.....	\$85,508
Professional Development - Academy Leadership.....	\$1,087
Other Graduate Support Expenses.....	\$9,070
Total ACCESS Schools Support	\$334,073

ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral Graduates.....	\$7,635
St. Cecilia School & Academy Graduates.....	\$78,636
Most Holy Trinity School & Academy Graduates.....	\$50,440
Central Catholic Academy Graduates.....	\$48,496
King of Glory Lutheran School Graduates.....	\$22,000
Emergency Tuition Funds.....	\$8,677
Tom Nolan Scholarship.....	\$6,081
Total ACCESS Scholarship Support	\$221,965

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral Graduates.....	\$9,506
St. Cecilia School & Academy Graduates.....	\$85,600
Most Holy Trinity School & Academy Graduates.....	\$35,500
Central Catholic Academy Graduates.....	\$49,500
King of Glory Lutheran School Graduates.....	\$22,500
De La Salle Middle School Graduates.....	\$63,000
Loyola Middle School Graduates.....	\$92,500
Marian Middle School Graduates.....	\$56,500
Total High School Scholarships	\$414,606

Total Student Support Expenses.....	\$970,644
High School Scholarship Dinner Expenses.....	\$139,868
General & Administrative Expenses.....	\$244,702
Total Expenses	\$1,355,214



Creating Challenging Education for St. Louis Students
12120 Bridgeton Square Dr., Bridgeton, MO 63044

2005—2015

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The background of the central section features a stylized, textured illustration of a globe. Overlaid on the globe are two graduation caps (mortarboards) with tassels, one on the left and one on the right. The text "WATCH GOOD SEEDS GROW" is centered over the globe in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

WATCH
GOOD SEEDS
GROW

Annual Scholarship Dinner
June 3, 2015 * 6 PM to 9 PM
Four Seasons Hotel— St. Louis

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