FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cleveland, OH – On November 9, more than 725 Saint Joseph Academy students will gather for a day filled with inspiring stories and personalized guidance at the school’s 10th annual Women’s Leadership Symposium – an event designed to expose students to female leaders, many of whom are alumnae.

“Preparing young women for college, careers and life beyond – as well as leadership positions within their chosen path – has always been a focus of Saint Joseph Academy. The Women’s Leadership Symposium is just one more way we allow our students to see and experience what’s possible in the world,” says President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis ‘71.

The symposium’s signature event is a keynote address, given this year by Rear Admiral June E. Ryan. Admiral Ryan is senior Coast Guard commander for the five Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway – an area that encompasses eight states and a 1,500 mile international border. She leads 6,000 Coast Guard Active Duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary men and women in Cleveland and at 77 subordinate areas. She previously served as Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security where she supported the Secretary in affairs relating to the coordination and execution of policy and operations between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense. Her Coast Guard career includes several distinctions, including being the first prior-enlisted woman to be promoted to flag rank and serving as the Military Aide to the President, only the third woman in U.S. history to do so. As the...
mother of a freshman attending Saint Joseph Academy, she brings a unique perspective to this year’s event.

In addition to Admiral Ryan’s keynote address, more than 50 professional women are scheduled to speak with students in Career Breakout Sessions. These women represent careers as varied as finance, entrepreneurship, visual and performing arts, education, operations, law, health sciences, engineering, community development and nonprofit enterprises. They bring with them a distinctive perspective on how they achieved their goals, sharing real-life and practical advice on potential careers.

There will also be an interactive panel discussion “Leadership in Action: Service” to be attended by all students. This year’s panelists are Naila Paul, Director of Education at The Refugee Response, and Nancy Zetts Roach ’89, educator at the International Newcomers Academy at Thomas Jefferson School. The key benefit of the panel discussion is that students have the opportunity to ask questions and learn from experts who are immersed in global organizations and know first-hand what it means to foster unity among immigrants in the Cleveland community in their daily work.

The keynote address will be 9:45-10:30 a.m. at Saint Joseph Academy in the Academy Center. Career Breakout Sessions for students in each grade level will follow.

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*Now in its 126th year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only all-girls Catholic high school in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of more than 725 young women, Saint Joseph Academy is rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph and works to foster unifying relationships with God and all creation. Each young woman is empowered to achieve academic excellence, and inspired to a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Saint Joseph Academy is located at 3470 Rocky River Drive in Cleveland. For more information, visit [www.sja1890.org](http://www.sja1890.org) or call 216.251.6788.*