12th Annual Women’s Leadership Symposium Inspires a World of Possibilities for Saint Joseph Academy Students

CLEVELAND, OH – On Monday, October 22, the 725 students of Saint Joseph Academy will gather for a day filled with inspiring stories and personalized guidance at the school’s 12th annual Women’s Leadership Symposium – an event designed to expose students to female leaders, many of whom are alumnae.

“Preparing our 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 enable our students to see and experience what’s possible in their futures,” says President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis ‘71.

The symposium’s signature event is a keynote address, given this year by Rear Admiral Joanna Nunan. She is a 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 in two senior positions within the Cabinet offices: Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Military Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation. In recent years she has served as the Chief of Staff at the Coast Guard Force Readiness Command, Sector Commander in Hawaii and Deputy Sector Commander in Puerto Rico.

Rear Admiral Nunan is a 1987 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. She also earned her Master of in Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1991 and earned her Merchant Mariner License as Master (1,600 Tons), Second Mate (2,000 Tons) and Third Mate (Unlimited) in 1999. From 2002 to 2003, she was a Seminar XXI Fellow in MIT’s Center for International Studies, and in 2003-2004 a participant in the Executive Potential Program, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Leadership Development Academy. In 2006, she was assigned as the Coast Guard (CG) Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a

Rear Admiral Nunan’s personal awards include the Secretary of Transportation Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement, Department of Transportation Outstanding Public Service Award, two Legion of Merits, three CG Meritorious Service Medals, recognition via an American Samoa Senate Concurrent Resolution, and selection as the CG’s first Female Elite Athlete of the Year. Rear Admiral Nunan is a great role model whose educational and professional STEM background is a great fit for the many students of Saint Joseph Academy who are interested in these fields. As the mother of a freshman attending Saint Joseph Academy, she brings a unique perspective to this year’s event, thanking the Academy “for providing a wonderful place for my daughter to grow.”

In addition to Rear Admiral Nunan’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.

The keynote address will be 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Saint Joseph Academy in the Academy Center. Career Breakout Sessions for freshman and sophomore students will follow, matched to the students’ interests.

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Now in its 128th year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only all-girls Catholic high school in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of 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 or call 216.251.6788.