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## **Catholic School in Clarkston Represents the Only Private School in Michigan to Win 2016 National Blue Ribbon Honors**

CLARKSTON, MI: Everest Collegiate High School and Academy, a Catholic School in Clarkston, Michigan is one of 50 private schools in the US and the only private school in Michigan to be awarded 2016 National Blue Ribbon School Honors.

The announcement was made on September 28, 2016 by US Secretary of Education, John B. King, Jr.. Said King to all the honorees: “Your schools are on the cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices—professional learning communities, project-based learning, social and emotional learning, positive behavior systems—making you shining examples for your communities, your state and the nation.”

Recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School, Everest holds the sole honor in the State of Michigan as the state’s only private school to receive the award.

According to Greg Reichert, Principal of Everest Collegiate High and Middle Schools, “This award is a direct reflection of the dedication of our faculty and students to academic and institutional excellence. I could not be more pleased to see their tireless efforts honored through the receipt of the Blue Ribbon Schools Award.”

The coveted honor is further enhanced by Everest Collegiate High School and Academy being the only Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade educational institution in Michigan to win the award across both the public and private sectors.

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“The individualized attention we strive for as a school is evident throughout our institution. We have put in place programs at all levels beginning with preschool programming and continuing all the way up to our specialized AP offerings in high school. We are accomplishing amazing things here, but we recognize it is not through our faculty and staff’s efforts alone that it happens. Our achievements would not be possible without the students, parents, and most importantly our acknowledgment of God’s Hand in it all,” said Susan Ender, the Principal of Everest Academy’s Elementary School.

Greg Reichert and Susan Ender will represent Everest Collegiate High School and Academy in Washington D.C. on November 7-8, when the school will be formally recognized for its achievement at an awards ceremony hosted by the U.S. Department of Education.

According to a U.S. Department of Education press release, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on fewer than 8,500 schools in the last 34 years.

Everest Collegiate High School and Academy is an independent, private Catholic school from Pre-K through 12th grade offering gender specific education on a co-ed campus. The school provides an authentically Catholic educational experience designed to develop leaders who are capable of utilizing their strengths, so they can fulfill the unique plan that God has for each of them.

More information about Everest Collegiate High School and Academy can be found on its website at EverestCatholic.org.

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