



women of faith pursuing excellence
Xavier College Preparatory
Roman Catholic High School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY TO HOST 4TH ANNUAL "GIRLS HAVE 'IT' DAY"

(Phoenix) - Xavier College Preparatory will host its fourth annual "Girls Have IT Day" on **Friday, March 16, 2012 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** Developed by Xavier students in partnership with faculty, "Girls Have IT Day" promotes young women's involvement in science, information technology (IT), engineering, art and math (STEAM).

More than 400 middle school girls from around the Phoenix metropolitan area will participate in the day's events, along with over 100 Xavier students who will mentor the younger students throughout the day. The program will begin with a lecture by Mary Lucking, an artist, architect and technologist who creates artworks for people to share. Her work ranges from large-scale, permanent artworks to temporary interactive installations. Her projects include commissioned art incorporated into public spaces such as walking and biking trails, public transit stations, college campuses, and neighborhood parks; as well as interactive installations that have been exhibited by many museums across the country. Following Ms. Lucking's lecture, the students will participate in a hands-on, STEAM-focused activity fair hosted by members of various Xavier student clubs.

According to the National Science Foundation, only 27 percent of math and computer science degrees awarded nationally are awarded to women. Dotdiva.org, a website designed to increase the number of girls interested in computer science, states that approximately 140,000 new jobs in technology are

created annually, but only 60,000 students graduate from college with the skills to fill these jobs. Further, surveys of women in college suggest that females have a significantly greater negative attitude towards computers and math than males.

"Xavier has built an interdisciplinary approach to science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) learning that has inspired creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills in our young women," said Principal Sister Joan Fitzgerald, BVM. "Among the opportunities that we offer our students are science, technology, engineering, art and math accelerated programs, honors and AP courses, dual-enrollment opportunities with the Maricopa Community Colleges, clubs, and honor societies. Our goal is to prepare our students for college coursework and future careers, all the while mentoring the younger students in our community and making a difference today."

Xavier College Preparatory, located at 4710 North Fifth Street in north central Phoenix, has built an outstanding record of academic excellence, innovation, leadership development, athletics and community service. Xavier is twice recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, and recognized nationally for academic excellence by the Catholic High School Honor Roll in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Xavier was awarded the 2007-08 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement, honoring high schools with high student success rates in AP math, science and technology courses. The Arizona Interscholastic Association awarded Xavier its prestigious H.A. Hendrickson Award (2009) for overall excellence in interscholastic competition and its Blue Cup Award (2006) for excellence in scholastics, athletics and activities.

All Xavier graduates attend post-secondary institutions. Members of the Class of 2011 were accepted at 279 colleges and universities, garnering over \$27 million in college scholarships. Over thirty percent of Xavier students have financial need, and Xavier is strongly committed to educating all qualified students.

Xavier College Preparatory is a Catholic community that strives to prepare young women with knowledge, skills, and integrity to meet the challenges of a changing global society in a positive and productive manner. This pursuit of excellence, individual and cooperative, is our mission.

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