



PRESENTATION OF THE 2012 MILCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

TO

Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy

As parents, teachers, political figures, and others continue to wrestle with the challenges facing public education in America, much emphasis has been placed on the importance of attaining a high school diploma, and the essential role that milestone can play in shaping a young person's future. It has become increasingly clear, however, that the foundation for academic success forms much earlier, and that the three fleeting years a student spends in middle school can have a profound influence on the rest of that individual's academic, professional, and personal life.

It is these crucial years, and the potential they hold, that have inspired the mission and vision of Baltimore City's Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy. Founded to help meet the critical need for quality education for children of diverse races, ethnicities, and religions—particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds—the Academy enrolls 70 boys, admitted on the basis not only of financial need, but also their demonstrated desire to succeed. In keeping with the Academy's Jesuit identity, it strives not just for academic challenge and success, but also for its students to become young men of character, young men who make a positive contribution to their communities, young men for, and with, others.

The ways in which the Academy pursues these ambitious goals are many: a rigorous academic program; small classes and a longer school year; ample access to cultural, arts, athletic, and other extracurricular experiences; and the active engagement of its parent community. In essence, Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy succeeds by embracing the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis* that has defined the order and its educational institutions for nearly 500 years. And it is an approach that is serving the Academy well. Its graduates continue on to the region's most highly regarded college preparatory schools, and ultimately graduate high school and enroll in post-secondary programs at rates well in excess of those of their peers throughout Baltimore City.

The Academy also welcomes the participation of partner organizations from throughout the Baltimore region—relationships which benefit both the Academy and those fortunate enough to connect with the school and its students. Loyola University Maryland's relationship with Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy dates back well before the latter institution's founding. The Academy is housed on a site the then-College called home from 1855 to 1921. More than 70 years later, Loyola reaffirmed its ties to 740 North Calvert Street through its engagement with the Academy and initiatives including a mentoring program, service-learning courses, and opportunities to host Academy students on the University's campus. The relationship continues to grow in new ways, with several Loyola School of Education graduates beginning teaching careers at Saint Ignatius, and a growing number of Saint Ignatius graduates enrolling at Loyola as college students.

Next year, the Academy moves from its current location to one in Baltimore's Federal Hill neighborhood that will double its space and add a much-needed gymnasium and athletic fields. In this continued commitment to serving its students better, to realizing greater achievements, to constantly reaching higher and expecting more, the Academy shares yet another essential Jesuit principle with Loyola: the ideal of the *magis*.

For its innovative and visionary approach to one of the most critical periods in the education of young people; for its extraordinary commitment to making the experience of a rigorous, principled education in the Jesuit tradition possible for Baltimore's most underserved students; and for its valuable, ever-deepening partnership with Loyola University Maryland on programs that benefit the students, faculty, and staff at both institutions, Loyola University Maryland is proud to present Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy with the Milch Award.