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Padua Franciscan High School

Press Release

Padua Franciscan's MedTrack® Honored for Curriculum Innovation

PARMA, Ohio -- (February 14, 2013) Padua Franciscan High School's unique MedTrack program was named a 2013 recipient of the Innovations in Catholic Education award by *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine. MedTrack is a four-year advanced science and math program which prepares students in the Franciscan tradition for healthcare careers.

Padua joins 11 other Catholic schools nationwide that will receive this award in April. Now in its 16th year, the annual award recognizes innovative projects in six categories: restructuring and merging Catholic schools, marketing your Catholic school, promoting Catholic identity, curriculum and instruction, projects facilitated by technology, and community involvement.

Padua's MedTrack program, now in its fourth year, was honored for curriculum and instruction. "I am so proud of all the hard work that has gone into this program which strengthens Padua's fifty-year tradition of academic excellence," said Principal David Stec.

Guided by an Advisory Board of healthcare professionals, MedTrack provides a unique combination of spirituality, rigorous academics, and career exploration. "MedTrack has expanded my horizons both spiritually and scientifically," said senior Nick Mog, a member of MedTrack's first graduating class who aspires to a career in sports medicine. "I am learning so much about what healthcare means from a Franciscan perspective, plus I love the camaraderie my classmates and I have developed through our shared experiences. The extra effort required to graduate from the program has been totally worth it," he said. Currently, 100 students are enrolled the MedTrack program.

"We are excited with how this program has been embraced by students, parents, and the broader healthcare community," said MedTrack Director Laurie Keco Grabowski. "Our students are gaining hands-on experience that will help them choose their path with better knowledge of the benefits and challenges of each healthcare profession."

For more information about MedTrack, go to www.PaduaFranciscan.com/Medtrack or contact Laurie Grabowski at LGrabowski@PaduaFranciscan.com.

School background notes: Padua Franciscan is located at 6740 State Road in Parma, Ohio. Padua is the largest private, co-educational secondary school in the Cleveland area. Today, it is one of less than twenty high schools officially chartered by the State of Ohio as college-preparatory. In 2004 and 2006, Padua was named one of the nation's top 50 Catholic secondary schools by the Acton Institute, and since 2007 has been recognized as one of the best schools in Ohio by the Gerber Report. Padua is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement as well as the Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association. An Ohio corporation, Padua was founded by the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart of Saint Louis, Missouri, and bases its educational philosophy on the life and spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. As a school in the Franciscan tradition, its mission is to develop the unique talents of each student, while giving them the skills they need to succeed in college and beyond. For more information, go to PaduaFranciscan.com.

For Immediate Release