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St. George's Independent School

A coeducational independent school with campuses in Collierville, Germantown, and Memphis

St. George's Independent School Receives National Honor for Demographic Sustainability

March 6, 2007 — The Washington, DC-based National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) has announced that St. George's Independent School was one of three schools nationally to receive the prestigious Leading Edge honor for demographic sustainability in 2007. The independent day school, which serves just over 1100 students in prekindergarten through twelfth grade, was recognized for its urban initiative which enabled the school to open an urban, scholarship-based campus in inner city Memphis.

About eight years ago, as St. George's, Germantown was preparing to build a middle and upper school in Collierville, a group of anonymous donors approached the Board of Trustees, asking that they consider opening an urban elementary campus in Memphis. It was believed that the partnership of both the Germantown and Memphis campuses would become a viable bridge in a racially divided city.

The Memphis campus began small, offering only prekindergarten through second grade. It reached out to attract predominately lower-income minority students with scholarships. Funding was obtained to allow all students at the urban campus to receive scholarships covering an average of 90 percent of the tuition. Today, enrollment has grown and third and fourth grade classes have been added. A fifth grade will be available in the fall of 2008. Teachers on both elementary campuses routinely meet to plan lessons and ensure that students at both locations will be ready to join together for middle school at the Collierville campus. St. George's operates its three campuses as one school, striving to build relationships between students, parents and teachers across socioeconomic and racial divides. Joint field trips, assemblies, sporting events and play dates offer opportunities to build strong bonds.

The Leading Edge program, in its fifth year, honors independent schools' outstanding achievements in five categories: Demographic Sustainability, Environmental Sustainability, Financial Sustainability, Global Sustainability, and Programmatic Sustainability. The program showcases best practices and model programs to inspire and motivate other schools, and seeks public recognition for schools whose programs and projects advance pre-collegiate education.

"Independent schools have the freedom to experiment and model innovative programs that other schools can then adapt within their own settings," said NAIS President Patrick Bassett. "The Leading Edge Recognition Program is designed to encourage, stimulate, and recognize schools that exercise their creativity and take calculated risks to improve education for all children."

For more information about St. George's urban initiative or NAIS's Leading Edge Recognition Program, please visit www.nais.org.

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St. George's Independent School is a coeducational school of excellence preparing students for a life of learning and meaningful contribution through dedication to high academic achievement and the development of moral character reinforced by Judeo-Christian values.