

Contact information:  
Lisa Davis  
6249 Canal Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70124  
(504) 488-1319  
email: ldavis@stpauls-lakeview.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL GOES GREEN**

### ***Plans Announced for Innovative "Green" Campus and Environmental Curriculum***

**(New Orleans, LA - October 5, 2007)** St. Paul's Episcopal School in Lakeview announced plans for a new multi-million dollar science facility and refocused master plan to be funded by grants and sponsorships. The new facility will conform to the high standards of current LEED certified "green" building practices. This is part of a new comprehensive plan to combine a community-centered sustainable campus with a curriculum focusing on environmental issues at all grade levels.

Plans also include a living, evolving "outdoor classroom" which, combined with expeditions to the natural wetland habitat in neighboring City Park, will provide a venue for educating students about local habitats and the challenges they face. The school will develop a "master plan" to incorporate sustainability principles campus-wide and to develop a unique curricular program with a focus on environmental education and community outreach.

"St. Paul's has a longstanding commitment to excellence and innovation in the study of the sciences. Now, having survived Katrina, our students, as well as students throughout the region, have a unique sensitivity to environmental issues and their impact on daily life. We want to provide all of the students in the Greater New Orleans area the opportunity for collaborative, innovative learning, which may well provide the basis for them to create real-world solutions in the future," says Merry Sorrells, St. Paul's Head of School.

The comprehensive environmental studies curriculum will include an interdisciplinary component to examine these concepts via work in areas such as geography, social studies, and the arts. Additionally, it will involve local universities in collaborative teaching and learning opportunities. Using these innovative learning spaces and curriculum, St. Paul's will actively engage other New Orleans-area schools in the study of issues such as the preservation of our vanishing wetlands.

St. Paul's quest for green landed them in Washington D.C. as the first non-public school invited to participate in the American Architectural Foundation's "Great Schools by Design" program. This program is a national initiative to improve the quality of America's schools by promoting collaboration, excellence and innovation in school design.

"They helped us to focus our concept and to enhance our vision for what we can accomplish down the road. We're incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to gain the insights of these talented professionals. I think they were touched by St. Paul's efforts to go beyond simply rebuilding - we're trying to create something positive for the future of both the school and community," says Sorrells.

St. Paul's campus and a majority of its families were devastated by flood water after Hurricane Katrina. Through a combination of faith, determination, and hard work, the school was able to return to its campus in the fall of 2006.

St. Paul's Episcopal School, an independent co-educational school including a program for 3-year olds and grades pre-Kindergarten through eight, is an outreach of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with Merry Sorrells, please call (504) 488-1319 ext. 120 or email msorrells@stpauls-lakeview.org.

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