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McCormick Foundation grants \$100,000 to St. Martin de Porres High School

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WAUKEGAN, IL - St. Martin de Porres High School announced today that the McCormick Foundation has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Waukegan-based Cristo Rey Network school. This is the second consecutive year of funding that the McCormick Foundation has provided to St. Martin de Porres. "St. Martin de Porres High School is deeply grateful to the McCormick Foundation for its support of our mission," says George Rattin, SMdP President. "Its most generous gift of \$100,000 will help enable us to continue to prepare students in the greater Waukegan area to graduate not only from our school, but also college. The support of the McCormick Foundation helps us to prepare our more than 220 students to be college ready, career ready, people of faith. We are grateful to the McCormick Foundation for their leadership in helping support students with limited options."

The grant will be used to fund the general operating costs of St. Martin de Porres High School, which offers a college-preparatory option to local youth from families of limited means. As a member of the national Cristo Rey Network, St. Martin de Porres employs an innovative work/study model that provides financial stability to the school, administrative assistance to local business partners, and a professional internship experience to its students. Four students share one full-time entry-level position, each working 5 days per month throughout the school year. St. Martin is known for its ability to prepare first-generation college students and their families for the transition to higher education; 99% of SMdP graduates have been accepted to college.

"Our communities are only as healthy as our young people," said McCormick Foundation President and CEO David Hiller. "St. Martin de Porres and the Cristo Rey Network Schools have a long commitment of instilling a sense of personal and civic responsibility in students. This commitment in turn builds stronger communities throughout our region and strengthens our nation's civic health. We are very proud to be a part of this work."

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About the Cristo Rey Network

Cristo Rey Network schools provide a Catholic, college prep education to economically challenged young people in urban communities. In 2009-2010, 24 schools serve more than 5,800 students. Ninety-five percent of Cristo Rey students are racial minorities; 34 percent are African American and 55 percent are Latino. The schools educate students of all faiths and cultures; this year 37 percent of Cristo Rey students are not Catholic. Ninety-nine percent of the Network's 2009 graduates were accepted to a two

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or four year college and, through their work-study jobs, students earned more than \$27M toward their tuition. For more information visit: www.cristoreynetwork.org.

About the McCormick Foundation

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, world-class museums, and civic outreach programs the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with more than \$1 billion in assets. For more information visit www.McCormickFoundation.org.