



PRESS RELEASE

CCSE Honors Katy Prebble with the
Lifetime Achievement Making IT Happen
Award

CATHOLIC COALITION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

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CCSE Honors Katy Prebble with the Lifetime Achievement Making IT Happen Award *Retiring President of The Academy of the Holy Cross*

(Kensington, Maryland) – The Catholic Coalition for Special Education presents its first Lifetime Achievement Making IT Happen Award to Ms. Katy Prebble, who is retiring as President of The Academy of the Holy Cross.

Through her vision, collaboration and determination, Ms. Prebble – along with a dedicated team of educators – established the Moreau Options Program, a student-centered, inclusive education program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in 2014. CCSE is proud to have supported the creation of the program through seeding and Pro-Bono Technical Assistance. Today, Moreau Options, a model for schools around the country, continues to thrive along with other programs and initiatives created under her leadership to enhance school academics and facilities.

“The Lifetime Achievement Making IT Happen Award is all about making ‘IT’ happen. ‘IT’ being **Inclusive Teaching**. Katy Prebble certainly made inclusive teaching happen at The Academy of the Holy Cross. Both her school and CCSE have grown over the last decade, helping each other along the way. The Moreau Options Program has expanded and firmly established itself, and along the way CCSE has provided countless hours of pro-bono consulting, coaching, professional development and technical assistance to administrators and teachers. Our investment has been more than worthwhile and we could not be more proud of this signature program,” said Francesca Pellegrino, Founder and President of the Catholic Coalition for Special Education.

“Katy has been a leader and Holy Cross has become a model of what inclusion can look like in a Catholic high school. We need more high schools to take the leap of faith with us and we honor Katy for having done so,” said Francesca.

CCSE’s Self-Advocate Ambassador Theresa Brogan is a proud alumna of The Academy of the Holy Cross and is delighted to honor Katy Prebble at CCSE’s upcoming Spring Benefit on March 15, 2024 at Columbia Country Club. “I remember as an 8th grader visiting so many Catholic high schools and knowing not one of them had a program for me. When I found out Mrs. Prebble was going to begin a program at Holy Cross and I was accepted, I was over the moon that I could really go to a Catholic High School. Now that I am out of college and working, I know how lucky I am that it was Holy Cross. Holy Cross helped me develop all of the gifts that God gave me just like they do for every student,” said Theresa.

CCSE is accepting registration for the 2024 Spring Benefit and invites everyone to come and celebrate Katy Prebble’s trailblazing leadership in inclusive teaching. For ticket pricing and more information, please visit <https://ccse.joinme.org/benefit2024>.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington (D.C.), wrote in his welcome letter for the Spring Benefit, “I want to add my voice to yours in thanking God for the gift of her [Katy Prebble’s] vision, leadership and guidance ... As she now looks forward to a new chapter in her life, may God’s favor be upon her always.”

Indeed, Katy Prebble made IT happen. Certainly it was not easy, but it was not as overwhelming as many may think. When being interviewed about CCSE and inclusion, Ms. Prebble spoke of freeing oneself of fear and saying ‘yes,’ and she said, “One of the things I hear most commonly from high schools is a fear of how they are going to financially support the [inclusive] program. And not only has the Catholic Coalition helped us through grants, but that has inspired other donors and other foundations to also support the program; and then, on top of that, it just becomes a natural part of your operations.”

Thank you, Katy Prebble, for making inclusion natural.

CCSE has reached over 9,000 students, teachers and families and awarded 78 grants to 32 Catholic schools in 9 Maryland counties totaling over \$1.3 million since its inception in 2004.

In 2019, CCSE was nominated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and was conferred the prestigious NCEA Seton Award as an Exemplary Model of Christian Service.

CCSE supports Catholic schools in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and Archdiocese of Baltimore. CCSE’s *Believe in Me!* grants to Catholic schools may be used by the schools to hire and train special educators, purchase equipment and materials, or provide appropriate accommodations and modifications to the curriculum. CCSE also offers technical assistance and training – all free of charge – to help schools be the best they can be in serving and teaching all God’s children inclusively.

CCSE also provides scholarships to Catholic school teachers pursuing advanced degrees in special education and offers workshops and other training /coaching support to Catholic schools to help them meet the needs of students with disabilities at the classroom and administrative levels.

“Our goal at CCSE is to advocate for students with disabilities so that all students desiring a Catholic education can find a place at the table and a school to call ‘home.’ Catholic schools are uniquely qualified to serve students with disabilities precisely because they are Catholic. Including students with disabilities in Catholic schools helps ensure the Unity of the Body of Christ and demonstrates that no matter the differences all children have unique gifts that they bring as valued members of a school community,” said Francesca Pellegrino.

The mission of the [Catholic Coalition for Special Education](#) is to advocate for and facilitate an appropriate, inclusive, high quality education for students with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities in the Washington D.C. and Baltimore region Catholic schools to enrich their lives, schools, and the broader community.