



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Holy Family Catholic Academy Achieves AdvancED STEM Certification

Inverness, IL —December 9, 2017—AdvancED congratulates Holy Family Catholic Academy on receiving AdvancED STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Certification for its middle school program, becoming the first middle school program in Illinois to be STEM certified. This achievement is a mark of STEM distinction and excellence only offered to highly effective institutions that prioritize STEM education as a path to success.

AdvancED STEM Certification is the first internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs, signaling the growing emphasis placed on STEM education by educators, politicians and business leaders around the world. In earning this certification, Holy Family Catholic Academy has demonstrated its commitment to preparing its students for their educational and career opportunities of the future by ensuring its students will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their postsecondary pursuits and as workforce contributors in the 21st-century economy.

In order to earn STEM Certification, Holy Family Catholic Academy had to demonstrate adherence to the AdvancED STEM Standard as reflected by the school's performance across 11 rigorous STEM Indicators. The certification process provides a rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement process, supported by research-based tools and resources. Achieving high scores across the indicators certify that students have been equipped and trained to be innovative, creative and systematic problem-solvers across disciplines.

"We are proud to have earned AdvancED STEM Certification of our middle school program. This certification exhibits our commitment to addressing workforce needs by preparing our students with the relevant skills and experiences to succeed while demonstrating to the private-sector that we are committed to driving higher levels of student achievement for their STEM pipeline," said Kate O'Brien, Principal. "STEM certification will continue to uphold our school to high standards while providing a clear roadmap for us to continuously improve our STEM disciplines and program."

AdvancED's STEM Certification Reviewers examined Holy Family Catholic Academy's evidence of quality STEM education that the school provided to the review team beforehand, and conducted classroom observations focused on identifying student engagement and collaboration in the learning process using the Effective Learning Environment Observation Tool™ (eleot™). Reviewers also interviewed key stakeholders such as school administrators, STEM faculty and staff, parents, students, and external partners in order to verify the school's commitment to connecting students' STEM experiences in the classroom to the local community and the world at large.

To learn more about AdvancED STEM Certification, contact AdvancED at STEMCertification@advanc-ed.org. For more background on AdvancED's products and services that support institutions in their continuous improvement efforts visit www.advanc-ed.org.

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About Holy Family Catholic Academy

Holy Family Catholic Academy develops students from 2-year-old preschool through 8th grade to gain the skills and experiences needed to be thinkers and leaders, grounded in their faith. The Academy provides a high quality education that features problem solving, inquiry learning, and applied technology. Holy Family Catholic Academy serves as a model for Catholic education, the Archdiocese, and the global community.

About AdvancED

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving the largest community of education professionals in the world. Founded on more than 100 years of work in continuous improvement, AdvancED combines the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change to empower PreK-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential.

AdvancED operates three regional accrediting agencies and serves as a trusted partner to 32,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 countries.



