

Welcome to
Gesu's 14th Annual Symposium
on Transforming Inner-City Education



Educating Inner-City Children in the 21st Century

Presenting Sponsor



Welcome to Gesu School!

Gesu School is an independent Catholic school grades pre-K to 8. Inspired by the Jesuit and IHM traditions of social justice, faith, hope and love, Gesu School strives, without selective admissions, to provide a quality, innovative education for our neighbor children to empower them to break the cycle of poverty and violence.

As you walk through the school, you will notice several hallmarks of the Gesu School approach:

- Gesu School abides by the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis*—care of the whole person—and the IHM belief that every child can learn.

With courses and enrichment programs ranging from laboratory science to the arts, from advanced writing and advanced math to remedial programs, Gesu offers a broad, challenging curriculum for students of all abilities and develops a wide range of talents.

Single-sex classrooms for grades 3-5 address the specific learning needs of boys and girls at these ages and improve the outcomes for our male students.

Structure, character development and a faith-based approach, as well as counseling and social support services, are critical to the growth and well-being of our children.

- An engaged board of trustees and a dedicated faculty, staff, administration and corps of volunteers are the pillars supporting Gesu School's mission and a key reason for Gesu's reputation as a model for inner-city education.
- Gesu School depends on financial support to provide our students with a quality, innovative education. Always a responsible steward of our donors' generous gifts, Gesu has earned a four-star rating for financial health, accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator—the independent charity evaluator's highest rating—for five consecutive years!
- While Gesu admits students on a non-selective basis, more than 90% of our alumni graduate from high school on time—in a neighborhood where only 34% of adults hold a high school diploma. Many of our graduates attend top college preparatory, independent, Catholic, charter, and magnet high schools.

With the help of many friends and supporters, Gesu works!

Program

Prelude

Gesu Gospel Choir
directed by H.L. Ratliff

Welcome

Kimberly Baxter
Grade 8

Opening Remarks

J. Gordon Cooney Jr.
Board Chairman

Panel Discussion

Closing

Bryan H. Carter
President and CEO

Reception

For a complete transcript and audio recording of today's proceedings, as well as information from past symposia, please visit

www.gesuschool.org/2011symposium.html

Thank you!

We thank the sponsors, panelists, trustees, volunteers, faculty and staff who have made today's event possible. We also thank YOU for joining us! Together we are transforming the face of inner-city education.

Robert J. Birdsell



Robert Birdsell joined the Cristo Rey Network as president and CEO in 2007. He is responsible for the overall strategy of the Cristo Rey Network and the day-to-day operations of the central office, including oversight of all programs, services and trainings for the 24 member schools and seven feasibility studies. In the past two years, Birdsell has led the Cristo Rey Network through a strategic planning process.

Prior to joining the Cristo Rey Network, Birdsell was a managing vice president with Eduventures, an industry leader in educational research and consulting. At Eduventures, Birdsell ran the firm's higher education consulting practice, which worked with universities on strategic planning and implementing the firm's best practice research. Before Eduventures, Birdsell was a managing director at Clark Consulting, a human capital consulting firm. Birdsell also taught English literature for seven years at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee and at Loyola High School in Los Angeles.

Birdsell received his B.A. in English literature from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and his M.B.A. from the Lubar School of Business at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Birdsell is frequent speaker on education reform and sustainability for urban schools. He is on the board of directors of the Jesuit Virtual Learning Academy and the Freedom and Prosperity Academy.

Bryan H. Carter



Bryan Carter's life has come full circle as the new president and CEO of Gesu School. As someone who credits his Catholic grade school and Jesuit high school education with helping him face the challenges of growing up with five brothers in a single-parent household in the heart of Cleveland, he knows firsthand the incredible power a quality education can have for children living in the inner city.

In June 2011, Carter became Gesu School's 3rd president and CEO since the school became independent in 1993. Prior to joining Gesu School, Carter served as resource and community development director for the national adoption agency The Cradle. Through his position with The Cradle, Carter increased the number of donors by 67%, increased the number of dollars raised by 86% and achieved goals set for encouraging African-American individuals to become adoptive parents. Carter believes the work was a wonderful way to apply the business skills he developed as an entrepreneur and pharmaceutical manager with Johnson & Johnson, Abbott Laboratories and Pfizer toward a valuable cause while giving back to the community – and he looks at his new position at Gesu as an extension of that privilege.

Carter holds a bachelor's degree in political science and business management from Case Western Reserve University. He and his wife, Joan Roebuck-Carter, reside in Narberth with their 4-year-old daughter, Elaina.

David P. Hardy



David P. Hardy is co-founder and chief executive officer of Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School. Boys' Latin is a college preparatory high school serving qualified boys of diverse backgrounds who live in the city of Philadelphia. Boys' Latin offers young men a rigorous classical/contemporary education that prepares them for college matriculation and sets high standards for achievement, character development, and age-appropriate conduct. At Boys' Latin, Hardy led the total transformation of a former Catholic school and church into one of the most modern, state-of-the-art school facilities in the region.

Hardy has been active in several educational organizations. He is secretary of the board of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO). He is also on the board of the North Carolina Outward Bound School. Hardy serves on the advisory boards of the Friends of Philadelphia Parks and the Holocaust Awareness Museum. He served as a trustee for finance and renovation at the National Charter School Conference, the BAEO National Symposium, and the Pennsylvania Charter School Coalition State Conference. He served on the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Task Force on Safe Schools (where he was chairman of the Alternative Schools Committee). He was a board member at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools and The Timothy School for Autistic Children.

Maria Kefalas, Ph.D.



Maria Kefalas is a professor of sociology and the director of the Richard Johnson Center for Anti-Violence at Saint Joseph's University. After earning a doctorate in sociology at the University of Chicago, and before joining the faculty of Saint Joseph's University in 2001, she worked at the Brookings Institution, held a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and taught at Barnard College at Columbia University. She lectures widely about the challenges facing poor families and youth.

Professor Kefalas has published several articles and four books. Her latest projects include a study of the "stop snitching" culture in high crime communities and a forthcoming book on the impact of the Great Recession on twenty-somethings—a book tentatively titled *Generation R(ecession)*. She is an associate member of the MacArthur Foundation's Network on Transitions to Adulthood and is a co-founder of a social media project for youth engagement called The Philadelphia Youth Solutions Project (www.pysp.org).

Joseph Watkins



Joe Watkins is an MSNBC political analyst and the chairman of Students First Corp, a non-partisan committee devoted to supporting Pennsylvania legislative candidates who promote education reform that puts the interests of students first. He is also the pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Philadelphia.

Watkins has worked as a government relations professional at Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney and also as a managing director and equity partner in an asset management firm. He previously worked on the U.S. Senate staff of Senator Dan Quayle and on the White House staff of President George H. W. Bush. Watkins is a former host of CNN's *Crossfire* and has hosted *Praise the Lord* on the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Married to Stephanie Taylor Watkins, Watkins is a graduate of the Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, the University of Pennsylvania and the Princeton Theological Seminary. He and his wife are the parents of three children, a son-in-law and two grandchildren.



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Past Symposia

2010 Closing the College Gap: What Can Universities, Schools and Communities Do?

2009 Transforming Inner-City Education: Faith-Based Schools? Charter Schools? Magnet Schools? Renaissance Schools? Is There One Answer?

2008 Transforming Inner-City Education: Lessons in Leadership

2007 Inner-City Education: What's Old? What's New? What's Next?

2006 Transforming Inner-City Education: Can an Early Start Change the Outcome?

2005 How Colleges and Universities Can Partner with Faith-Based Communities to Serve Urban Children in Need

2004 Transforming Inner-City Education: Lessons from the Entrepreneurs

2003 Educational Reform: What's Next?

2002 Children Learning Amid Stress

2001 Research and Roadblocks to Developing Young Readers

1999 The Urban Child in Peril: Can Literacy Change the Outcome?

1998 Do Faith and Vouchers Mix?

1997 Inner-City Education: Are Faith-Based Schools an Answer?

Gesu School

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