



CONTACT: Joyce Valdez
Communications & Marketing
480.963.1900 x3011
jvaldez@setoncatholic.org

Kim Cecere
On Point Communications
480.284.3068
Kim@onpointbrand.com

NEWS RELEASE

Editors' Note: To download logos and other assets, visit www.setoncatholic.org/blueribbon

Seton Catholic Preparatory Awarded 2017 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education

One of 50 private schools to receive the coveted award



CHANDLER, Sept. 28, 2017—Seton Catholic Preparatory announced today it was named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School in the “Exemplary High Performing” category by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized Seton Catholic along with four other schools in Arizona to win this year’s Blue Ribbon award.

The 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools cohort represents 342 (292 public and 50 private) schools in 44 States, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense Education

Activity Schools in Okinawa, Japan, Stuttgart, Germany, and West Point, New York. The Blue Ribbon program recognizes the full diversity of American schools: public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools, including traditional, charter, magnet schools, parochial and independent schools. Schools are selected for the prestigious award for overall academic excellence or their progress in closing the achievement gap.

“Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is a blessing that affirms Seton Catholic’s commitment to academic excellence,” said Seton Principal Victor Serna. “Our former principal, Mrs. Collins, assembled an incredible team of Catholic educators who have made this award possible. Receiving this award recognizes the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and supportive parents, and speaks volumes about our rigorous curriculum.”

According to the National Blue Ribbon Schools website, schools are recognized as Exemplary High Performing if their student achievement in English and mathematics is among the highest in the country (top 15 percent), measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

According to the latest ACT Profile Report, Seton’s 2016-17 ACT composite score is 25.2 while Arizona’s average composite score is 19.7 and the national average is 21.0. Seton is home to 55 Advanced Placement scholars: 23 AP Scholars, 12 AP Scholars with Honor, 17 AP Scholars with Distinction, and three National AP Scholars. In the past two years, Seton has produced 13 commended National Merit Scholars, one semifinalist and two finalists.

- More -



CONTACT: Joyce Valdez
Communications & Marketing
480.963.1900 x3011
Jvaldez@setoncatholic.org

Kim Cecere
On Point Communications
480.284.3068
Kim@onpointbrand.com

NEWS RELEASE

Seton Awarded 2017 National Blue Ribbon School – Add One

“We have always known that Seton Catholic Preparatory holds its students to a higher standard,” said Pat Collins, former principal who recently retired after 25 years of service to Seton. “Receiving the Blue Ribbon Award serves as validation of the entire school’s efforts towards academic excellence.”

“The Blue Ribbon recognition affirms Seton’s place as the premier Catholic, college preparatory high school serving families in the East Valley,” said Dr. David Sorkin, assistant principal. “Coupled with being named a top 50 Catholic high school in the nation by the Cardinal Newman Society in 2010, Seton continues to provide an impressive education for all who come here.”

Serna added, “Being recognized as a Blue Ribbon School provides a high standard for current and future students and staff to aspire towards. We are going to continue challenging ourselves in the name of academic excellence, leadership, and loving service to others.”

In November, Seton administrators will attend the National Blue Ribbon Schools annual award ceremony in Washington, DC. At the event, each award-winning school will receive a plaque and flag to signify its exemplary status. The 2017 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>.

About the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

An important part of the U.S. Department of Education, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes outstanding public and non-public schools. In identifying several hundred outstanding schools annually, the program celebrates school excellence, turn around stories, and closing subgroup achievement gaps. The Award is both a high aspiration and a potent resource of practitioner knowledge.

About Seton Catholic Preparatory

Seton Catholic Preparatory is a diocesan high school serving the East Valley of Phoenix, Arizona, for over 60 years. Seton Catholic was founded in 1954 by Fr. Joseph Patterson to serve the Hispanic community in Chandler, Arizona. Today with a current enrollment of 581 students, Seton remains the only Catholic, college preparatory high school in the East Valley, serving young men and women from parochial, private, charter, public, and home schooling backgrounds. Seton is open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership, and loving service to others.



CONTACT: Joyce Valdez
Communications & Marketing
480.963.1900 x3011
Jvaldez@setoncatholic.org

Kim Cecere
On Point Communications
480.284.3068
Kim@onpointbrand.com

NEWS RELEASE

Seton Awarded 2017 National Blue Ribbon School – Add Two

Rigorous course loads, including Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors options, and dual enrollment offerings with Seton Hill University, inspire Seton Catholic students toward deeper understanding. Pathway to Innovation, a unique Arizona high school engineering program, and Pathway to Success, a program to support struggling students, present evolving curriculum designed to support students' passions and interests.

A championship-winning Athletics program offers a bevy of girls' and boys' sports, providing a supportive environment where students can achieve as athletes and scholars. Seton's wide-ranging fine arts curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities underscore its commitment to providing a well-rounded secondary education. A new House System deepens the sense of community and provides abundant student leadership opportunities. A Christian service program ensures a Seton student graduates with over 100 hours of service to the community. Many Seton graduates earn scholarships to and attend an array of selective colleges and universities, including state, private, and Ivy League schools as well as service academies.

Seton Catholic Prep is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. For more information, visit www.setoncatholic.org.

###