

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saint Martin de Porres Academy to Honor Mary L. Pepe at 18th Annual Spring Fling Gala

Monies Raised Will Support Student Scholarships

New Haven, CT – [February 7, 2024] – Saint Martin de Porres Academy, a unique, independent, faith-based, tuition-free middle school, is proud to announce its 18th Annual Spring Fling Gala, an evening dedicated to recognizing the remarkable contributions of Mary L. Pepe to education and community service. The gala will take place at Woodwinds in Branford, CT, on Thursday, April 11, 2024, starting at 5:30 PM.

Allison Rivera, President of Saint Martin de Porres Academy, commented, "We are truly blessed to have had Mary as part of the St. Martin's journey since before our school's founding in 2005. As a seasoned educator and community leader, Mary has been an advocate for so many people from New Haven to the Valley, from Greenwich to the Shoreline. It is our privilege to celebrate her achievements at our Spring Fling Gala."

Mary's history of community service speaks volumes about her dedication to educational and philanthropic endeavors. A former English teacher at Derby High School, Mary not only demonstrated her commitment to the academic and personal growth of her students but also served for five years as the Director of Curriculum, Staff Development and Public Relations for the district. Her accolades include being named Teacher of the Year by Phi Delta Kappa, an honor that underscores her dedication to and impact on education. Beyond the classroom, Mary has been a staunch supporter of educators through her role as President of the Derby Education Association (DEA)—the teachers' union—where she was part of the team that negotiated the first teachers' contract in Connecticut under the binding arbitration law.

Her other career highlights include serving as the Director of Human Resources at Valley Cable Vision/Telemedia and at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, where she rose from Director of Human Resources to Vice President of Operations for the public utility serving 400,000 customers in twenty towns. Mary's influence extends beyond her corporate roles, as evidenced by her commitment to the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, where she notably served as Chair during the time of the establishment of the Fund for Women and Girls. Her passion for the arts and culture is reflected in her tenure as Chair of the esteemed Long Wharf Theatre and her role on the Board of Elm Shakespeare.

Mary's tireless work for her community and her leadership roles have been instrumental in shaping the direction of several other notable organizations, leaving a legacy of positive

change and enduring commitment. These organizations include the Valley United Way (President); the Birmingham Group/Valley Mental Health Center (founding Board Member and President); Gaylord Hospital (Board Member); and Fellowship Place (Board Member). In addition, her visionary efforts and compassionate leadership as a founding director of the Valley Community Foundation have left an indelible mark on the community.

Currently, Mary brings her wealth of experience to the Town of Greenwich as the Director of Human Resources.

Mary's involvement with St. Martin's is a testament to her lifelong pursuit of educational excellence and community upliftment.

"St. Martin's believes deeply in each child and is focused on providing the resources and opportunities needed so that every child can reach their greatest potential," said Mary. "I am honored to have been involved in the creation of this incredible school."

Attendees will enjoy a night of festivity featuring a cocktail hour, dinner, silent and live auctions, culminating in a celebratory program. The evening will not only honor a special individual but also will support the Academy's ongoing efforts to provide transformative education to underprivileged youth. Saint Martin de Porres Academy invites the community to join in celebrating Mary L. Pepe's extraordinary legacy, which truly embodies the Academy's core values of compassion, responsibility, and service.

For ticket information, sponsorship opportunities, or to make a donation, please visit www.saintmartinacademy.org/spring-fling/ or contact Anthony Pelino, Esq., Vice President of Advancement at apelino@saintmartinacademy.org.

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About Saint Martin de Porres Academy:

Saint Martin de Porres Academy is a faith-based, NativityMiguel model middle school located in New Haven. The Academy provides a tuition-free, extended day education for underserved children from low-income families, fostering academic excellence, personal responsibility, social skills, and leadership. Through a comprehensive 12-year support system, Saint Martin de Porres Academy empowers students to become competent, compassionate individuals who positively influence the world.

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