



## The Association of Catholic Student Councils Expands Program for Student Leaders

*October, 2004: Garden Grove, California*

### Largest Gift in Organization's 22-Year History

**Establishes Southern California Program Director Position and Funds Scholarships for Students**

The Association of Catholic Student Councils (TACSC) was recently awarded a \$75,000 grant from the William H. Hannon Foundation – the largest received in the Association's history.

TACSC is a California non-profit leadership training corporation that serves Catholic elementary and junior high schools across the country.



With the Hannon Foundation's grant, TACSC was able to hire a full-time staff member to oversee the development and implementation of programs in Southern California, including the William H. Hannon Scholarship program, a three part leadership training program that works with six schools in Southern California – three of which are in inner city Los Angeles.

"I'm excited that at long last we are able to reach schools in the inner city that would otherwise not be able to afford our services, said TACSC's Executive Director and Founder Marilyn Thickett. "The William H. Hannon Foundation Grant has also brought

about rejuvenation in our volunteer staff in Southern California which has meant new life to TACSC on a national level as well.”

Founded in April 1982, TACSC encourages the development of student councils or similar leader programs; supports existing student government and leadership programs within schools; and provides in-service and educational materials for student leaders, their advisors and school administration.

“When my late uncle founded this Foundation he did so with a focus on education. Education reaches beyond the classroom and TACSC’s work is helping to train our future leaders today. TACSC blends both leadership training with spirituality. That’s an important combination for creating strong leadership,” said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation.

Each year TACSC holds a five-day Summer Leadership Training Program at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., as well as a one-day Student Government Day at St. Joseph’s High School in Lakewood, Calif. TACSC also sponsors election workshops and in-service programs throughout the school year.

Each of the six schools participating in the William H. Hannon Scholarship program receives the Junior High Leadership Retreat (spring) and the Back to School Leadership Retreat (fall). Additionally, TACSC sponsors a Summer Conference Essay contest for the three inner city schools. Two children from each inner city school are selected to receive a scholarship to the Summer Conference. Students from the non-inner city schools are strongly encouraged to attend the Summer Conference to further develop the leadership skills acquired during the spring retreat.

The Junior High Leadership Retreat (spring) works with the sixth and seventh grade students from each school and focuses on personal development while motivating students to take a leadership position within their school.

The Back to School Leadership Retreat (fall) serves as a follow-up to the Junior High Leadership Retreat and the Summer Conference. This retreat focuses on teamwork, group dynamics and problem solving by working directly with the student councils of the six schools.

For more information about TACSC and its programs, visit [www.tacsc.org](http://www.tacsc.org).

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