

TACSC Newsletter Winter 2022



TACSC
A CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION

Growing Leaders for 40 Years

IN 2021 ALONE...

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19

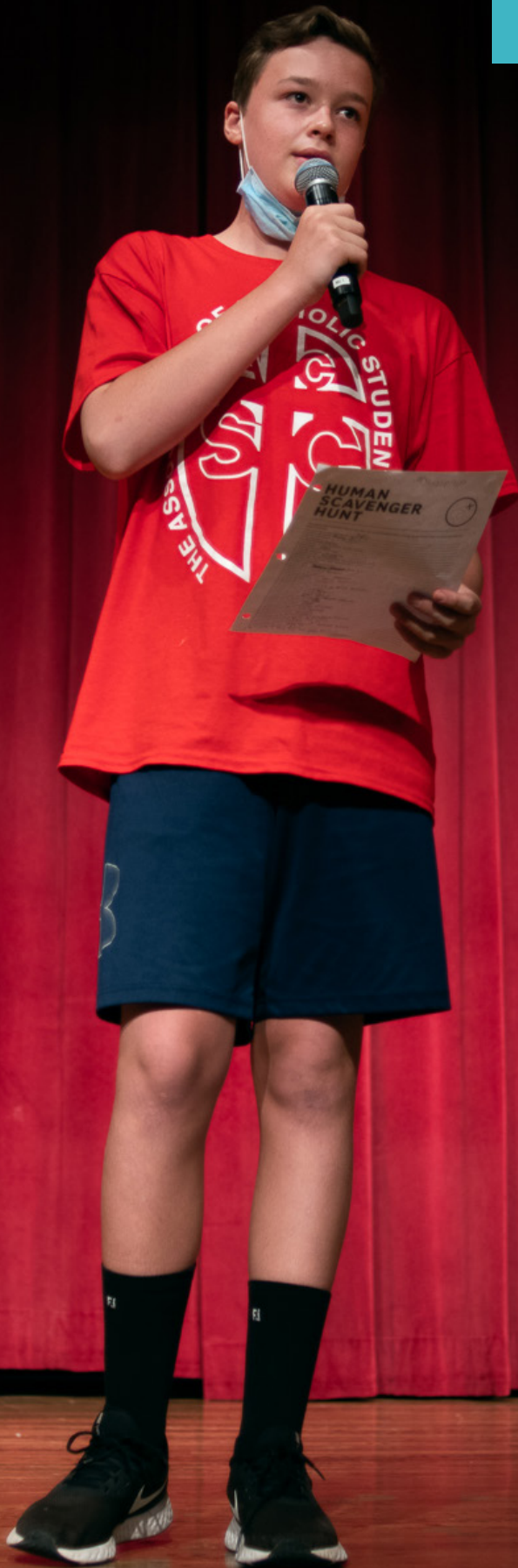
- TACSC programs served nearly **1,500 students**
- Student Leadership Days trained **900 delegates** from **90 different schools**, engaging and additional **220 high school leaders** as instructors
- Summer Conferences **served 275 students** and included an inaugural days-only program
- \$88,000 in scholarship funds raised and distributed to high school and middle school programs

"I feel like a changed person. **I don't know who I would be without TACSC.**"

Since 1982

34,000

student leaders have participated in TACSC programming.



THE BIG 4-0!

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TACSC is turning 40 this year! We couldn't be more excited to celebrate this milestone birthday. In 1982, Marilyn Thickett began a program to promote leadership and student councils in Catholic schools. Today, four decades later, TACSC alumni are over 35,000 strong. One person started a spark and ignited generations of future Catholic leaders. Marilyn and the TACSC legacy live on in all of us.

We will be celebrating you, TACSC, our rich history and looking back at our amazing traditions all year. Our alumni committee is planning a fantastic fall evening celebration on Saturday, October 1, so grab your fellow delegates and mark your calendars!

We are incredibly proud what we have accomplished in recent years at TACSC. In the past eight years, we have raised a half million dollars in scholarship funds to make our programming accessible for thousands of students. TACSC has expanded to include a high school summer program and our Core Leadership Team for high school leaders. We do all of this with our four pillars, fun and of course a whole lot of TACSC magic!

As we look to the future, we are excited about what see. We know the work that was started 40 years ago is more important today than ever before. TACSC will continue its rich legacy of growing future Catholic leaders for generations to come. Thank you for celebrating this milestone with us this year and for keeping the TACSC legacy alive. We are so excited for THE BIG 4-0!

Happy birthday TACSC!



Heidi Johnson, Executive Director

Growing Leaders for 40 Years



WELCOME



New Board Members

CHRISTIAN DE LARKIN

Christian De Larkin has extensive leadership experience in Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He recently served as principal of St. John Bosco High School, where he led a successful school growth plan in academics and co-curricular programming. Christian began his career as a member of PLACE Corps at San Gabriel Mission High School, where he served as a Spanish Teacher. He quickly moved into leadership positions and became Vice-Principal of Junipero Serra High School in 2009 before becoming Principal / President in 2012.



Christian is a proud three-time graduate of Loyola Marymount University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Spanish and a Master of Arts in Secondary Education. He also earned a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership for Social Justice, where his dissertation research focused on organizational change through grading policy reform. He holds a California single subject teaching credential and will earn an Administrative Services Credential in the Spring of 2022. Christian is a husband and father of two, a self-proclaimed lover of all things Los Angeles, an avid cyclist, and loves to practice, perform and teach West African / Afro Cuban percussion.

Christian currently serves as President of St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy, where he leads in the implementation of the school mission, to provide a Catholic University experience for teenagers to grow in faith, learn without limits and live with purpose.



JAMES D. EVANS II

Jim Evans retired from the Capital Group in Los Angeles in 2021 as a senior vice president of human resources with responsibility for the firm's global diversity, inclusion and engagement effort.

Before beginning his 15-year career with joining Capital, he was vice president of human resources for Russell Corporation in Atlanta with

responsibility for the Russell Athletic brand. Before joining Russell, he was the director of the Human Resources Customer Service Center with Pfizer, Inc. in St. Louis, which provided services to 42,000 employees in the United States. He has also been director of the Center for Employee Services and human resources leader at Pharmacia Corporation; human resources leader for the Agriculture Sector at Monsanto Company; human resources manager for Pizza Hut, Inc. in Irvine, California and served in a variety of human resources roles for GM Hughes Electronics Corporation in Los Angeles.

He coached youth sports and served on numerous non-profit boards including Child Center of Our Lady (St. Louis), the YMCA (Los Angeles and St. Louis), Westchester Del Rey Little League Softball and Posse Foundation Los Angeles Advisory.

A native of Las Vegas, Jim earned a B.A. in psychology from Loyola Marymount University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife (Mary Jo) have four adult children (Chelsea, Clayton, Jay, and Madison) and reside in Westchester with their two dogs—Ruth Barker and Koda Bear.



Save the date! The TACSC magic is on its way! Overnight summer programming will be held for **middle school students June 23 - 26 and July 14 - 17**. The High School Summer Leadership Seminar will be held **July 29 - 31**. Early bird registration will open on March 1. Pricing will increase on April 1. Stay tuned for additional information!



PROGRAMMING UPDATE

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAYS ARE UNDER WAY!

We are so thrilled to have a full schedule of Student Leadership Days this spring! TACSC will be hosting events both in person and online throughout Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and Phoenix. We have been working hard to train our high school Core Leadership Team members who will be representing their school at one of our events.

Students participating in Student Leadership Days will "reset their leadership button" and will:

- >>> Learn the characteristics and pillars of servant leadership, participating in a mental health check-in and supporting The Kindness Campaign
- >>> Have more confidence speaking in public and working in small groups
- >>> Be challenged to "find their passion"
- >>> Engage in creative activities, including creating a song reflecting personal experiences during the pandemic

While events are underway, there are still plenty to choose from! **Visit tacsc.org/programs to see the full line up of events and register your students today!**

FEB 22

**Notre Dame
Preparatory**
Scottsdale,
Arizona

FEB 24

Online Event
Open to All
Students!

MAR 04

**St. Bernard
High School**
Playa del Rey,
California

MAR 14

**Rosary
Academy**
Fullerton,
California

MAR 18

Online Event
Open to All
Students!

*and
more!*

Welcome

NEW INTERNS



Camila Besada has been a part of the TACSC family for years. Throughout middle school, she attended various Student Leadership Days and Summer Conferences and now has joined our team to assist with all the things behind the scenes that make our spring events possible!

Camila is from the South Bay Area of Los Angeles and is a senior in high school at Notre Dame Academy in West Los Angeles. At school, she is the co-president of Campus Ministry and a member of Queen's Council, where she serves as an ambassador for the school and helps with the admissions process. She is also a member of the Women in Business Club, the I am Worthy Club, Latin America and Hispanic Student Organization, as well as a part of her school's National Honor Society chapter.

Outside of school, Camila enjoys spending time with her friends and exploring new places. She also enjoys giving back to her community—including volunteering at her local hospital weekly and as a member of Girl Scout Troop 1805.

As Camila moves forward with her academic journey, she hopes to end up at a university in Boston where she will study international business, while also exploring the fields of psychology and finance.



CLARISSA ESPINOZA



Clarissa Espinoza is a new member of the TACSC family. Throughout her high school years, she has demonstrated a passion for leadership and collaboration. She is excited to join TACSC to explore all the different ways she can contribute and learn.

Clarissa is from the Palms area of Los Angeles and is also a senior in high school at Notre Dame Academy. There she is the co-president of Campus Ministry, a founding member and Vice President of the Latin America and Hispanic Student Organization, a member of Women Encountering STEM, part of her school's National Honor Society chapter and a previous ambassador for Women Helping Women.

Outside of school, Clarissa enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going to the beach, and listening to music.



She enjoys contributing to her community by volunteering at her parish youth group and with Venice Family Clinic, and has participated in the Peace and Justice Coalition.

As Clarissa moves forward with her academic journey, she hopes to go to a university in California or New York to explore and study the sciences. She aims to join the STEM field to continue in these subjects and to be able to make a difference in the world.

THANK YOU TO OUR **FAN-TACSC-IC** INTERNS!



Save the Date! **TACSC 40TH**
ANNIVERSARY

Pull out your TACSC swag and mark your calendars for a 40th Anniversary celebration like no other! We're celebrating four decades of TACSC magic with a **special event on Saturday, October 1 in southern California.**

Start watching for flight deals, deciding your road trip path or humming "Friends are Friends Forever" under your breath. More details will be announced in the weeks to come about how you can get involved in this once-in-a-lifetime birthday bash!

TACSC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Special thanks to First Draft Los Angeles for hosting the TACSC Christmas party in December. Heidi played Santa, Gene wore a festive hat and fun was had by all!



HEY YOU!



We want to hear from you! Share your stories and get ready for the 40th with us! Send us a note at tacsc@tacsc.org



@tacsc



@tacsc



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