



# ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## Office of Communications and Planning

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Archdiocese of St. Louis Hosts Counter Bullying Workshop

*Catholic Approach to Discipline Inspires Schools Nationwide*

**What:** 2016 Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD) Summer Institute

**Where:** Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Dr., 63119

**When:** June 14-17, 2016, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**ST. LOUIS** – The Catholic Education Office will host the 2016 Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD) Summer Institute from Tuesday – Friday, June 14-17, 2016, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Rigali Center (20 Archbishop May Dr., 63119).

Over 200 educators from 50 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and seven other states will attend this comprehensive training in VBRD, a Catholic response to bullying. School teams will be trained to prevent and reduce antisocial behaviors through virtue education and restorative practices, resulting in a consistent message that upholds the dignity of the human person.

“This is our fourth year for this unique training,” said Mrs. Lynne Lang, Director of School Climate at the Catholic Education Office. “Our returning schools are a testimony to the success of this work and reflective of the archdiocesan [beONE initiative](#) goals.”

Parents and school personnel will learn to maintain a positive environment in which adults and students are accountable and responsible for holy habits of human excellence, and discipline is viewed as formative, rather than punitive. Sessions will include: Foundations of VBRD, Restorative Practices, Guiding Principles, Engaging Parents, and Successful Class Meetings. Each day, students will showcase restorative leadership among their peers.

An intercultural prayer service, will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at 8:30 a.m., in the St. Vincent de Paul Chapel, led by Gregory Heille, O.P., Academic Dean and Vice President of Aquinas Institute of Theology.

On Thursday, June 16, at 8:30 a.m., Keynote Speaker, Lee Rush, M.Ed., from International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) will present a talk entitled “Change the Conversation, Change the Culture” and 40 administrators will be trained in a program called “Authority with Grace: Restorative Leadership.”

The closing ceremony will recognize schools that have implemented VBRD with fidelity in the 2015-16 school year. For more information, contact Lynne Lang: [lynnelang@archstl.org](mailto:lynnelang@archstl.org), or 314.280.3723.

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