



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Archdiocese of St. Louis Plays Host to National Catholic Educational Association Convention & Expo

More than 8,000 educators from around the country expected to attend

ST. LOUIS – The Archdiocese of St. Louis will host the 2017 National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention & Expo next week, April 18-20, at America’s Center. The NCEA Convention is the largest private-education association gathering in the nation.

“The Archdiocese of St. Louis is proud to welcome the NCEA Convention and the thousands of educators from across the country to our city,” said Dr. Kurt Nelson, Superintendent of Catholic Education. “We have a strong legacy of Catholic education in our region and this convention will provide an opportunity to showcase that heritage as we prepare to embark on our third century of service.”

Four iconic St. Louis educational institutions trace their origins back to 1818, the year Catholic education formally began in the area: the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis University High School, and Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Today, nearly 40,000 students are enrolled in more than 130 Catholic elementary, secondary, and special education schools in the archdiocese.

The NCEA convention schedule includes professional development sessions, special events, and award ceremonies such as the annual NCEA *Learn. Lead. Proclaim.* Awards. Of the 41 honorees this year, four represent St. Louis Catholic schools: Kathleen Hertlein, Dean, social studies and theology teacher at St. Francis Borgia Regional High School; Kathleen Stinehart, theology teacher, Ursuline Academy; Rev. Ralph Siefert, S.M., President, Chaminade College Prep School; and the St. Louis University High School campus ministry team.

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson will celebrate the convention’s opening Mass on Tuesday, April 18, at 8:30 a.m. Media is invited to attend a panel discussion on “The State of Catholic Education,” Tuesday, April 18, at 11:00 a.m. Press credentials will be issued to accredited media on-site. Media must contact Margaret Kaplow (mkaplow@ncea.org) in advance and register at the convention where they will receive a press kit.

This year’s annual NCEA Convention has drawn more than 8,000 members and participants from Catholic school communities, including elementary and secondary school teachers and principals, clergy, superintendents, diocesan administrators, and school board members. The convention is a forum to exchange ideas, hear about current research and data related to Catholic education, and learn about new technology and resources.

For more information, visit ncea.org/convention, or follow along on twitter at [#NCEA17](https://twitter.com/NCEA17).

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