



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Alverno College and Edgewood College Community Partnerships Receive Award for Civic Engagement**

Every year, Wisconsin Campus Compact (WiCC) recognizes outstanding community partnerships with the Esther Letven Community-Campus Partnership Award. This year, two projects will be recognized: Alverno College's Alverno Girls' Academy of Science & Mathematics and Edgewood College's partnership with the Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SVDP). WiCC will present the awards at the Annual Civic Engagement Institute Awards Banquet at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay on April 6 at 6:00 PM.

#### **Awardee Information**

Alverno College's Alverno Girls' Academy of Science & Mathematics after-school program and Edgewood College's St. Vincent DePaul Society were selected by WiCC for the 2017 Esther Letven Community-Campus Partnership Award. The award recognizes outstanding campus-community partnerships that produce measurable community impact as well as student growth and learning.

The Alverno Girls' Academy of Science & Mathematics is an after-school program designed to encourage first generation minority high school girls from the Milwaukee area to pursue a college degree in the sciences. The Girls' Academy has been in place since 2011 and has served over 250 high school students from more than 15 high schools. The Girls' Academy establishes partnerships with local high schools who recommend junior and senior level girls for this afterschool applied science program.

Girls are transported on Friday afternoons to Alverno College where they experience not only theme-based science courses, but also college readiness sessions focusing on everything from choosing a major and applying for financial aid, to study skills for success. The high school students also eat dinner in the Alverno College cafeteria and are given free time to use the library and other resources open to students at the college. Upon completion of the program each Friday evening, the girls are transported to their homes by the Girls' Academy. The program runs for 22 weeks and is free to students.

"Students who successfully complete the Girls' Academy of Science & Mathematics program increase their ACT Science Reasoning score, communication skills and college readiness," said [Wisconsin Campus Compact](#) Executive Director Dr. Gavin Luter. "Students gain the confidence and knowledge needed to choose an institution and major that will allow them to reach their career goals. While the program

is open to all junior and senior girls, over 90 percent of the students in the Girls' Academy are from underrepresented ethnicities in the sciences.”

Edgewood College is getting recognized for their partnership with The Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SVDP) in Madison. The partnership started in the spring of 2005 when Dominican Life was looking for local partners for service opportunities for students and connected with SVDP to provide volunteers at the food pantry. From there it expanded to helping collect food for the SVDP food pantry, and now Edgewood also partners with SVDP in the classroom.

The relationship has grown in the past 12 years as needs were identified by both partners that could be met by working together, and today it includes eight connection points around the college. They are now working through the Friends of St. Vinny's to get more small groups of volunteers spread out over the week to meet the needs of the pantry.

### **About Campus Compact**

Campus Compact is a national coalition of nearly 1,100 colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. In 2002, Wisconsin joined National Campus Compact's movement toward an institutionalized commitment of civic engagement and service-learning. Learn more about the Wisconsin Campus Compact at <http://www.wicampuscompact.org/>.

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