



## **CONWELL-EGAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Media Alert**  
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### **Conwell-Egan Catholic's EAST Program Nationally Recognized**

While attending the 2011 Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Conwell-Egan Catholic High School's EAST team was honored as ranking among the top in the nation. Conwell-Egan Catholic (CEC) was named Superior School, the highest conference rating, and CEC's program won the Award of Excellence as one of the top three schools for the entire conference. Prizes included an Apple iPad, 24-inch Hp computer, flip camera, and thousands of dollars in new software downloadable for the EAST lab's computers.

The award recipients were announced at the national conference, which ran from March 1 through 3, 2011. Eight CEC students—including three freshmen—had the unique opportunity of representing our school's EAST program at the conference, along with facilitator Mr. Kenneth Hupka and principal Mrs. Margaret Blanco. They joined more than 2,000 EAST affiliates from across the nation to celebrate the EAST Initiative as a whole as well as individual school programs.

Conwell-Egan Catholic is one of two schools east of the Mississippi River to offer this program and the only Catholic school to do so. It is the only program outside of Arkansas to be recognized as one of the ten Founder's Award Finalists, surpassing more than 250 EAST schools across the country, based on overall program impact and various projects.

The program is not a typical high school class. Instead of a teacher who instructs, dictates, and assigns tasks, a trained facilitator runs an EAST class, managing, directing, and helping students find solutions to technological problems on their own. Most assignments are student-generated and student-created, with students being able to recognize a personal, school, community, and sometimes global need that creative thinking and technology can satisfy.

Over the past five years, CEC EAST students have designed green buildings using professional-grade software. They have partnered with community organizations and architects to help rehabilitate homes for the homeless and underprivileged. They have created two hour-long professional-level documentaries—one focusing on Holocaust survivors living in Lower Bucks County and another highlighting Bristol Borough's history with both Harriet Tubman's descendants and the Underground Railroad.

One current student is collaborating with a chain of department stores headquartered in New York City to create virtual 3D images of merchandise displays. Several groups of students are

currently engaged in creating innovative webpage designs for the Microsoft Corporation. Another group is using a GIS/GPS program called ArcGIS to map and display data important to many of the parishes whose students populate CEC.

This is just a very short list of the types of tasks that EAST students undertake every year.

Mr. Timothy Stephenson, who founded the EAST Initiative, visited CEC's USO-themed booth display at the conference and praised the students for how far the program has come and for their accomplishments this year.

On March 22, the conference team will hold a special EAST assembly for CEC's student body, showing their Founder's Award video and presenting their work to their teachers and fellow students.

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*With our Faith as the foundation of our school, the faculty and staff of Conwell-Egan Catholic High School are committed to enriching, inspiring and empowering students through academics and a sense of responsibility to serve the CEC community and beyond.*