



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of St. Thomas-Houston Offers Courses to South Texas Residents at Our Lady of Corpus Christi

Houston (June 15., 2009) - Beginning in fall 2009, University of St. Thomas in Houston and Our Lady of Corpus Christi (OLCC) will offer Corpus Christi area college students the opportunity to take accredited courses leading to a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas announced St. Thomas President Dr. Robert Ivany.

"This partnership is a marvelous opportunity for both institutions," said Ivany, "Together we will provide the underserved population of South Texas the opportunity to become true leaders of faith and character."

University of St. Thomas, Houston's only Catholic University, was founded by the Basilian Fathers in 1947. UST is known for its academically rigorous curriculum, personal attention and a student-faculty ratio of 12-1. With an enrollment of about 3,000 students, UST offers a strong liberal arts foundation featuring 31 undergraduate degrees, 9 graduate degrees and 9 pre-professional programs.

UST will offer five freshmen level courses for three credit hours each in fall 2009 taught by University of St. Thomas faculty. Tuition and fees will be the same for St. Thomas undergraduates. Students will be eligible for Federal grants and loans as well as financial aid provided by OLCC.

OLCC opened its doors in 1998 at 1200 Lantana Street offering a Catholic undergraduate liberal arts education. Both schools are committed to the Catholic intellectual tradition and the dialogue between faith and reason.

"This partnership enables Corpus Christi area college students to take core classes from a prestigious Catholic University without leaving South Texas," Dr. Dominic Aquila, vice president for Academic Affairs, said. "The University of St. Thomas' mission aligns with the Society of Our Lady of the Holy Trinity order, founders of Our Lady of Corpus Christi. UST offers students a first-class Catholic education that educates the whole person – intellectually, physically and morally."

The University plans to expand this five-course pilot program in the future. In the third year, students may be able to transfer credits into UST degree programs such as theology, philosophy, English, history, and communication at the main Houston campus.

"This partnership will not only expand educational opportunity to many South Texans," noted H. Ken DeDominicis, vice president for institutional advancement, "but it will also enhance support for both institutions and their students."

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UST students hail from 40 states and 58 countries and are 54 percent ethnically diverse. University of St. Thomas was named a Hispanic-serving institution by the Department of Education. Currently, Hispanic students comprise 39 percent of the undergraduate population. Sixty-five percent of all students are Catholic, and students of all faiths are welcomed.

UST has earned national recognition. Every year since 1994 the University has been named to the top tier of the Western Universities by *U.S. New & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges." In 2009 the University of St. Thomas was named a "Best Buy" Among Catholic/Private Universities by The Cardinal Newman Society's research division.

Students and parents may learn more about the University at www.choose-ust.org or call 1-800-856-8565.

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