NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Brownback Declares Kansas Private College Week to Recognize Contributions of Private Institutions

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary is among the state's institutions of higher education that will celebrate Kansas Private College Week this month.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback declared April 16-22 as Kansas Private College Week, encouraging "all citizens to join in this observance by recognizing the important contributions of private colleges in the state."

The University of Saint Mary is one of 18 institutions that make up the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA). Other members include Baker University; Benedictine College; Bethany College; Bethel College; Central Christian College; Donnelly College; Friends University; Hesston College; Kansas Wesleyan University; Manhattan Christian College; McPherson College; MidAmerica Nazarene University; Newman University; Ottawa University; Southwestern College; Sterling College; and Tabor College.

According to the KICA, About 22,000 students from across the nation enroll each year for undergraduate or graduate study at one of Kansas' private colleges, which award 20 percent of bachelor's degrees and 29 percent of master's degrees in the state. The private colleges support their students through generous financial aid, awarding more than \$120 million annually in institutional grants and scholarships above and beyond grants and scholarships from the federal and state governments.

Kansas private colleges have more than 200,000 living alumni, half of whom live and work in Kansas—among them are some of the state's most important civic, business and cultural leaders, like Saint Mary graduate Carol Marinovich, former mayor and CEO of Kansas City, Kan., and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County.

Call 785-235-9877 or visit www.Proud2BPrivate.com for more information on Kansas private colleges or on Kansas Private College Week.

Go to www.stmary.edu to learn more about the University of Saint Mary.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.