We Made The Challenge!  
To boost the fundraising of our $10.5 million goal for the Future, a generous anonymous friend stepped forward to help. The donor challenged the Campaign for Catholic Schools to raise $1.7 million in new and increased pledges in six months. If we met this goal, the donor would make an additional $1.7 million donation.

We’re happy to report that we not only met the challenge, but exceeded it by $25,000—just in time for our 10-year anniversary.

We're happy to report that we not only met the $7 million dollar goal of the Challenge Grant Fund for the Future, we exceeded it by $25,000—just in time for our 10-year anniversary.

Despite this bleak scenario, our extraordinary anonymous friend rallied to boost our fundraising efforts. It was an awesome opportunity and we are grateful for our extraordinary anonymous friend!

If you are interested in making a gift to the Fund for the Future, please contact Mary Myers at mmyers@rcab.org; 617-262-5600.

Yawkey Award Dinner
On Thursday, October 26, the annual Yawkey Awards for Teaching Excellence were presented to six Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy (SJPACA) teachers who exemplify high teaching standards and inspire their students of all backgrounds and abilities to be their best selves. Attending the award presentation was Jim Heyl, president of the Yawkey Foundations.

The Yawkey Awards for Teaching Excellence were established in gratitude to the Yawkey Foundations’ entrepreneurial philosophy in support of SLAPA. Award recipients must demonstrate a commitment to the Catholic education mission and be considered role models within the SLAPA community.

This year’s awards were presented to:
- Maria Ames, Columbia Campus, Grade 4
- Sara Richard, Columbia Campus, Middle School
- Brother Gregory Day, OFM, Lower Mills Campus, Tuter
- Rhonda Conyers, Lower Mills Campus, Middle School
- Carolyn Kergans, Mariposa Campus, Grade 1
- Megan Fischer, Neponset Campus, Grade 3

We are grateful to the Yawkey Foundation for its exemplary support of our community and Catholic education.

TOP: The Yawkey Foundation logo. BOTTOM: SJPACA teachers enjoy an evening of fun to raise money for CCS.

Young professionals spare time for good cause
Building Up Schools (B.U.S.), the CES young professional group, had a great time raising money for Catholic schools at the newly-opened bowling alley on Wednesday, November 8. B.U.S. members enjoyed refreshments, bowling and mingling at the after-work fund-raising event.

Young professionals from around the Boston area participated in the evening and experienced the new KINGS Seaport bowling alley.

B.U.S. events such as the bowling night allow many people to network, have fun, and help support Catholic schools while funding new programs and a renovation project. It was an awesome opportunity and we are grateful to our extraordinary anonymous friend!

If you are interested in making a gift to the Fund for the Future, please contact Mary Myers at mmyers@rcab.org; 617-262-5600.

Campaign for Catholic Schools: Building the Future of Catholic education

The Campaign for Catholic Schools (CCS) was established in 2007 in response to the critical school transformation seemed like a dream. Today it is a reality.

Ten years and $90 million later, CCS has established two regional academic centers from 10 former parish schools, Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy (SJPACA) in Dorchester/Mattapan, Trinity Catholic Academy (TCA) in Brockton, as well as assisted with the creation of South Boston Catholic Academy (SBRA).

To celebrate the milestone, CCS hosted a celebration in Boston on November 1, to thank supporters and Catholic education leaders, showcase Academy alumni and unveil plans for the next phase of Catholic education transformation.

Catholic Academy Alumni Committee Chair and event headliner, Jack Connors hosted the evening’s festivities.

The event included a panel discussion featuring recent alumni of the Academies including Brian Abraham, TCA/Yale class of 2022, and Carmella Verrastro, SJPACA/Boston College class of 2017, and Cara Maltese, BC/UMASS Dartmouth class of 2017. The panel discussion was moderated by WCVB-TV’s morning news anchor, John kenney.

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There is much to be thankful for this season. In celebration of our 10th anniversary, we shared a wonderful evening with Cardinal Seán O’Malley and many of our school founders, school leaders and supporters. Looking back on all that has been accomplished, I am proud of what we’ve done together and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Our new leadership on the Honor Roll Committee brings fresh energy and operational expenses. Together, we have already raised over $15 million for the Fund for the Future—considered the largest gift ever made to Catholic elementary education reform.

The Cardinal also thanked Jack and Eileen Connors and CCS Vice-chair, Bob Atchinson, and his wife Mickey, for their leadership and commitment to the Transformation. The CCS 10 Year Anniversary wasn’t the only reason to celebrate. In a surprise announcement, Bob Atchinson shared the news of a new Jack Connors Scholarship Fund created by CCS trustees in honor of Jack’s longtime leadership of the Campaign. The Connors Scholarship Fund awarded annually to students at SJPIICA and TCA.

The CCS 10 Year Anniversary brought together many CCS leaders, friends, supporters, teachers, alumni, donors and students to the Liberty Hotel in Boston Wednesday, November 1. CCS reportcard CCS reportcard FALL 2017 CCS reportcard CCS reportcard FALL 2017

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Top LEFT L-R: Bill Connors, Abram Boland and Steve Freilich. TOP RIGHT L-R: April Freilich, Michelle Storch, Lisa Warshafsky and Retha Reynolds. BOTTOM LEFT L-R: Chris Sherman, Mary Alisa Sherman, Dolores Hayes, Joseph Hall and John Boyle. BOTTOM RIGHT L-R: Tony Bulkley, Mark and Judy Connors.

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SJPICA teacher works overtime to empower fellow educators

When it comes to academic excellence, third-grade math teacher Caroline Jones’ influence goes beyond the confines of her own classroom.

In addition to teaching at St. John Paul II Catholic Academy (SJPICA), Ms. Jones recently completed a 16-month teaching fellowship with Teach Plus—Boston, the local affiliate of the national educational nonprofit that empowers experienced education to take leadership and policy-into-practice initiatives that impact student success.

“Every student in Boston should have access to effective and high-quality instruction.”

Caroline Jones,

As a teacher leader, Jones facilitates a five-week course with the Boston Education Collaborative on using “student talk” to elevate mathematical thinking. Teacher-creator and teacher-facilitator, the Collaborative supports district, charter and Catholic school educators throughout Boston. Ms. Jones’ course is held at the SJPICA Lower Mills Campus Media Center for the convenience of area teachers. Course participants receive professional development points or a graduate course credit through the University of Massachusetts Boston. The Boston Education Collaborative established in partnership with the Boston Compact and Teach Plus, was founded on the premise that empowering exceptional teachers and leveraging their content expertise ensures excellent instruction for all students.

By sharing her instructional techniques and collaborating with colleagues from three sectors in the city of Boston, “We can impact more teachers and more children,” Ms. Jones said. “Every student in Boston should have access to effective and high-quality instruction.”