

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **St. Mary's University College Athletics Program Accepted into ACAC**

**Calgary, AB (July 15, 2010)** – St. Mary's University College is proud to announce it has been accepted into the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC). The decision came by vote at the ACAC's Annual General Meeting held in the spring.

The "Lightning" will begin a three-year term as probationary members effective July 2012, and will begin athletic competition in women's and men's basketball in the fall of 2012.

The ACAC, the governing body for intercollegiate athletics in Alberta, is the highest rung of college sports in the province. Among the institutions that compete in this league are SAIT Polytechnic and Mount Royal University.

"St. Mary's is very pleased that its success has been recognized by the ACAC," said Dr. Terry Downey, President of St. Mary's University College. "It demonstrates the rigour of our athletics program and the enthusiasm among our students to be in a more competitive league. Advancement to this level provides our student-athletes with the opportunity to compete against the very best in the province. There is great excitement among students, faculty and staff about the St. Mary's athletics program moving ahead."

St. Mary's additional teams in men's and women's volleyball and men's and women's futsal will continue to compete in the Alberta Colleges Athletic League (ACAL).

#### **About Lightning Athletics**

Lightning Athletics strives to contribute to the overall synergy of the St. Mary's University College community by bringing students, faculty and staff together in activities that encourage the pursuit of excellence, promote healthy lifestyles, and foster growth in leadership and teamwork through competitive and recreational physical activity. The Lightning Athletics program offers men's and women's basketball, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's futsal (indoor soccer) and cross country running.

#### **About St. Mary's University College**

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution open to all faiths and traditions. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree and university courses in 33 academic disciplines. For more information, visit [www.stmu.ab.ca](http://www.stmu.ab.ca)

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