

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Bachelor of Education Degree now offered at St. Mary's University College

Calgary, AB (May 21, 2008) – St. Mary's University College today announced the approval by The Honourable Doug Horner, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, of a two-year after degree Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree to be offered effective September 1, 2008.

"The BEd is a product of a three-year planning process that involved extensive collaboration among Catholic school divisions and St. Mary's University College," said Dr. Terry Downey, President of St. Mary's University College. "The manner in which this degree was created ensures that our program is specifically directed to the demands of the elementary classroom and that our graduates will be highly trained professionals fully prepared to teach classes at any elementary level."

While graduates of the Bachelor of Education program will be prepared to teach in a K-6 program in any school, public or private, faith-based or secular, the program is particularly focused on preparing teachers to teach in Catholic schools in Alberta and beyond.

"The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) is pleased to support the Bachelor of Education degree program at St. Mary's University College," said Mr. Stefan Michniewski, Executive Director. "We are excited at the prospect that a cutting-edge program focusing on religious education, in a uniquely faith-filled environment, will be available to students. The ACSTA would like to congratulate St. Mary's University College and wish them success in this necessary endeavour."

The intake for the fall 2008 term is 30 students and 40 students every year thereafter. The program includes a combination of classroom based study and practicum placements. Students entering the program will have completed a St. Mary's University College Bachelor of Arts degree or an equivalent Bachelor's degree from another university.

The BEd degree joins five current degree offerings in General Studies, History, Psychology and two in English to make a total of six degrees now being offered by St. Mary's University College since it received degree-granting status in 2004.

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, student-focused liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution in Calgary. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees and courses in 27 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ab.ca.

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