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## **Indiana Chamber Names Inaugural School Counseling-Business Partnership of the Year: Hobart High School and St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart**

**February 9, 2017 (INDIANAPOLIS)** — The inaugural School Counseling-Business Partnership of the Year award was presented to Hobart High School and St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart at a luncheon ceremony yesterday in downtown Indianapolis. The recognition, developed by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation to highlight innovative approaches to college and career readiness, comes during National School Counseling Week.

Many factors led to the Hobart-St. Mary alliance being selected. Among them: the hospital's sponsorship of Hobart's Promise Indiana 529 college savings program; the establishment of a health care clinic in the schools to meet the needs of both students and their families, plus St. Mary's providing a wide range of work-based learning experiences and credential opportunities for high school students.

Indiana Chamber Foundation Executive Director Christy Huston pinpoints specific instances. "The medical center provides over 50 students each year with the screening tests required to take part in the Emergency Medical Services program. It also hosts approximately 30 students a year in a variety of internship and other learning opportunities.

"We also found that through the dedication and leadership of CEO Janice Ryba they go the extra mile. To accommodate one student's interest in health care administration, a St. Mary's Medical Center team member changed his hours of work to ensure that student was able to participate in meetings and experiences."

Additionally, the award provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a Hobart senior. Rachael Gayton, who will be attending Ball State University in the fall of 2017, was selected by the school to receive the scholarship. Gayton is in her fourth year of the school's biomedical sciences program and interning at St. Mary's in the pediatric unit. She says that her interaction with nurses and their willingness to share their experiences have solidified her plans to become a nurse practitioner.

"This alliance is a shining example of a career mentorship program. We congratulate St. Mary's, Hobart and Rachel for their excellent work," Huston states.

Nominations from throughout Indiana were submitted for the award. Danielle Adams, Hobart High School director of guidance, nominated the winning partnership.

The Indiana Chamber Foundation has conducted extensive research into effective school counseling practices, and has been designated by Lilly Endowment as one of the technical assistance providers to all eligible Indiana schools. Currently, the Indiana Chamber Foundation

is a resource for 15 districts (78 schools) that all received planning grants as part of an up to \$30 million Lilly Endowment Comprehensive School Counseling initiative.

The School Counseling-Business Partnership of the Year honor was presented at the Indiana INTERNnet's IMPACT Awards luncheon, which celebrates excellence in internships. Appropriately supporting the luncheon's theme of "Shooting for Success," former Indiana Fever WNBA All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika Catchings delivered the keynote address, "Scoring Big with Your Career." Catchings is also the founder of the Catch the Stars Foundation, which assists Indianapolis youth with goal-setting to promote fitness, literacy and youth development.

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**The Indiana Chamber partners with 24,000 members and investors – representing over four million Hoosiers – to achieve the mission of “cultivating a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity.”**