



Academy of Our Lady of Peace Third Annual Women's Symposium a Success

Impressive Panel of Women Speakers Shared Their Insights With the Next Generation of Female Scholars and Leaders Helping to Bridge the Gap

The oldest high school and only all girls' school in San Diego, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP), hosted its Third Annual Women's Symposium on Friday, March 31 on their historic campus. The event brought together top women leaders who shared their insights with students and the community and featured an impressive panel of speakers, including a keynote speech from Food Network star and OLP alumna Marcela Valladolid '96.

More than 250 external community guests joined the entire student body at OLP to experience this incredible day of women's empowerment. Funds raised will support the OLP Alumnae Scholarship Fund for students who embody the charm of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, show academic potential, and demonstrate financial need.

"I believe there are few things more powerful or positive than young, smart and inspired women," said Cheryl Goodman, Executive Director of Athena and STEM panel

facilitator at the Women's Symposium. "Nothing is beyond their reach."

For 135 years, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace has empowered young women to become academic scholars and community leaders. The annual Women's Symposium highlights that legacy by connecting current students with incredible women leaders.

Marcela Valladolid, co-host of the Food Network hit series "The Kitchen," kicked off the Third Annual Women's Symposium with a keynote address sharing her words of encouragement to the next generation of women leaders and innovators at OLP.

"There is nothing that you cannot accomplish if you have the faith and the courage to recognize your self worth," Valladolid '98 said. "Everything is possible."

The keynote was followed by a series of panel topics focusing on Arts and Entertainment, Business and Entrepreneurship, Healthcare, and STEM. Panelists at the event included world-renowned interven-



tional cardiologist Dr. Patricia Aubanel, writer, director, and first woman to win an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Brenda Chapman, Publisher of the San Diego Business Journal Amy Wimer, Vice President of Strategy and Innovation at ViaSat Kristi Jaska, as well as several others.

"Founded in 1882, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace already holds a rich history of empowering and educating young women. Our annual Women's Symposium not only showcases that legacy, but it also inspires it to continue on," said Dr. Lek.

This event was also a testament to the diversity of the school's alumnae's careers and accomplishments, as four alumnae returned to campus as panelists and speakers. "As you can see from this year's panel of speakers alone, our graduates go on to succeed in a full spectrum of industries, professions and worldly causes," Dr. Lek elaborates. "This event allows the new generation to learn from and connect with past students on a level that allows them to know, they too, can pursue their dreams and benefit their communities."

About The Academy of Our Lady of Peace

Located in San Diego, California, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP) is a rigorous college preparatory school with an unparalleled leadership program and a variety of co-curricular activities. For over 135 years, it has educated young women in the spirit of excellence and innovation that characterizes the founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. OLP has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of excellence by the U.S. Department of Education and 100 percent of its graduates continue on to pursue higher education. Students are encouraged to become academic, social, and spiritual leaders, as they are empowered with the skills and confidence needed to compete at whatever their career aspirations may be. OLP ensures its graduates have a worldwide perspective immersed in social justice issues, which enables them to become global leaders committed to changing the world.

For more information, please visit <http://www.aolp.org/>.