

**PHILADELPHIA'S GESU SCHOOL CHOOSES NATIONAL NONPROFIT LEADER  
BRYAN CARTER TO CONTINUE THE SUCCESSFUL WORK OF RETIRING  
PRESIDENT CHRISTINE S. BECK**

PHILADELPHIA (May 2011) – Bryan Carter's life will come full circle this summer when he becomes president of Gesu School, the nationally renowned independent Catholic school serving North Philadelphia's children. As someone who credits his Catholic grade school and Jesuit high school education with helping him face the challenges of growing up with five brothers in a single-parent household in the heart of Cleveland, he says he knows first-hand the incredible power a quality education can have for children living in the inner city.

"When I visited Gesu and saw the discipline, structure, the students' composure and the teachers' dedication to the children, it reminded me of my childhood," says Carter, who has served as resource and community development director for the national adoption agency The Cradle since 2009. "People need to understand what's going on behind these walls. This school is transforming lives and providing children with the opportunity to succeed, and I want to build on that remarkable track record. I also want to have an impact on parents and the surrounding community, working in partnership with the school to do something really special."

Through his position with The Cradle, which has placed more than 14,000 children into permanent homes since its founding in 1923, he has increased the number of donors by 67 percent, increased the number of dollars raised by 86 percent and achieved goals set for encouraging African-American individuals to become adoptive parents. He says the work has been a wonderful way to apply the business skills he developed as an entrepreneur and pharmaceutical manager with Johnson & Johnson, Abbott Laboratories and Pfizer toward a valuable cause while giving back to the community – and he looks at his new position at Gesu as an extension of that privilege.

"It's important for people to see that an investment in successful models like Gesu is a shared investment in our future," says Carter, who holds a bachelor's degree in political science and business management from Case Western Reserve University. "Children in disadvantaged situations come in behind academically and turn it around for the best possible start, leave as better students more interested in their future, and go on to have success in high school and college. I'd like to broaden support by continuing to talk about those exceptional outcomes with philanthropists, business leaders and others, including those in the African-American community."

The new position represents a return to the Philadelphia region for Carter and his wife, Joan Roebuck-Carter, a former nonprofit vice president who is now serving as Director, Office of the President for The Kimmel Center. The couple, who lived in Newtown for six years before moving to Chicago, reside in Narberth with their 4-year-old daughter, Elaina.

Carter succeeds retiring president Christine S. Beck, a long-time advocate for inner-city youth who served on Gesu's Board of Trustees for six years before becoming president in 2003. Beck was recently honored with the Gesu Spirit Medal for helping ensure the school's reputation and long-term viability by developing innovative programs, spearheading technological improvements, creating valuable partnerships, overseeing a \$12 million capital campaign and launching a three-year scholarship campaign.

"We have been extremely fortunate to have such a caring, mission-driven professional as Chris lead Gesu and set a strong foundation for the future," says Gesu Board of Trustees Chairman J. Gordon Cooney Jr. "Gesu not only has become a national model for inner-city education, it has helped thousands of children live productive lives. We are confident that Bryan will help us build upon that foundation to benefit the children, who deserve the opportunity to achieve their dreams."

*Gesu School ([www.gesuschool.org](http://www.gesuschool.org)) accepts students regardless of academic level or ability to pay and provides a quality, innovative education to 455 mostly non-Catholic children in grades pre-K through 8. In a neighborhood where only 34 percent of adults over 25 hold a high school diploma, more than 90 percent of Gesu alumni graduate high school, and many go on to college.*

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