

## News Advisory for Mar. 18

March 17, 2014

### **Saint Mary's College, Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana leaders analyze *Status of Girls in Indiana* report in panel discussion**

**Who:** Dr. Kristin Kuter, Saint Mary's College  
Deborah Hearn Smith, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana  
Patricia A. Wachtel, Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis

**When:** Tuesday, Mar. 18, 10 a.m.

**Where:** JW Marriott Indianapolis

**What:** Dr. Kuter will present the findings of the Saint Mary's report, the *Status of Girls in Indiana 2013*, a comprehensive study on the health and well-being of Indiana girls from ages 10-19. The SGI report is topically arranged and covers demographics (income, race, housing, etc.), education (attendance, standardized test performance, graduation rates, etc.), and health (physical activity, diet, substance use, mental health, abuse, etc.). From all indications, it's the first comprehensive study on the health and well-being of Indiana girls. Led by five Saint Mary's faculty, 60 students in four courses collected the data and edited the copy for the SGI report. Leading the project were Dr. Kuter, assistant professor of mathematics, and Gina Deom of Evansville, who graduated in May 2013 with a degree in statistics and actuarial mathematics. Link to the report:  
<https://cwil.saintmarys.edu/status-girls-indiana>

Deborah Hearn Smith and Patricia A. Wachtel will discuss the strategies each girl-serving organization has in place to continue the positive findings in the report, but more importantly, address the challenges that girls in Indiana face. Both organizations have programming to strengthen girls' ability to make important decisions, to resist peer pressure, and to make healthy choices regarding fitness and nutrition and body image. They provide strong female role models and mentors to help provide an additional safety net for girls beyond family and school.

### ***About Saint Mary's College***

*Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind., is a four-year, Catholic, residential, women's liberal arts college offering five bachelor's degrees and more than 30 major areas of study, such as business,*

*nursing, art, chemistry, and social work. The College's single-gender environment has been proven, in study after study, to foster confidence, ethical leadership, and strong academic success. Saint Mary's College ranks 76 among the 248 "Best National Liberal Arts Colleges" for 2014 published by U.S. News and World Report. Founded in 1844 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's College's mission is to educate women and prepare them for postgraduate success whether it's a first job, graduate school, or postgraduate service.*

### **About Girl's Inc. of Greater Indianapolis**

Girls Inc.® of Greater Indianapolis inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and boldSM. Girls Inc. provides hands-on programs that address the challenges that girls face today, such as self-esteem and bullying. We want girls to be healthy, educated, and independent. Girls Inc. partners with schools and community organizations and utilizes volunteers to deliver programs for girls. All of Girls Inc.'s programs are highly-researched and age-appropriate. For more information, please visit [www.girlsincindy.org](http://www.girlsincindy.org).

### **About Girl Scouts of Central Indiana**

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana serves more than 40,000 girls in 45 counties across central Indiana. Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with more than 3 million girl and adult members. Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girl Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. If you'd like to join, volunteer, or donate to Girl Scouts, visit [girlscoutsindiana.org](http://girlscoutsindiana.org).

Contact: Deana Potterf, chief communications officer, 317.924.6804, cell 765.426.3121,  
[dpotterf@girlscoutsindiana.org](mailto:dpotterf@girlscoutsindiana.org)

Contact: Kristin Tobler, Public Relations Coordinator, 317-522-2607  
[ktobler@girlsincindy.org](mailto:ktobler@girlsincindy.org)

# # #