

**FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO ALL CATHOLIC HIGH  
VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIANS AT THE  
NATION'S ONLY CATHOLIC H-B-C-U**

***EDITORS NOTE: Although these new full tuition scholarship programs are scheduled for full implementation in the Fall 2011 semester, current high school seniors who feel qualified are encouraged to contact the Admissions office toll free @ #1-877-X-A-V-I-E-R-U and/or to apply online at [www.xula.edu/admissions](http://www.xula.edu/admissions) . Thanks!***

[New Orleans, LA]- America's only Historically Black and Catholic university, Xavier University of Louisiana, is now offering full tuition scholarships to top performing students at Catholic high schools across the nation. The newly established Katharine Drexel Scholarships will provide full tuition for Catholic high school Valedictorians or Salutatorians who are admitted to Xavier University as first-time freshmen effective August 2011.

“As far as we know, Xavier is the first university to offer such a far-reaching scholarship opportunity to Catholic high school graduates,” said Dr. Loren Blanchard, senior vice president for academic affairs.

“Valedictorians and salutatorians have many options for college and Xavier is often a popular choice for many of them. In recognition of their outstanding academic performance, there should be no financial barriers to attending Xavier since this opportunity is so in line with our mission,” said Blanchard.

The Katharine Drexel scholarships were established to help retain and reinforce the university's Catholic foundation and values. The program is named in honor of the university's founder, Saint Katharine Drexel, a Philadelphia heiress who dedicated her wealth to providing education and financial support to Native American and African American communities across the country. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament religious order that she founded (SBS) continues her mission today in the numerous elementary and high schools they established. Xavier University in New Orleans is the only institution of higher education that she founded. In recognition of her selfless dedication to educating the poor and disenfranchised, the Roman Catholic Church canonized Katharine Drexel a saint in 2000.

The four-year co-ed institution offers 39 majors through 18 academic departments, in addition to an outstanding College of Pharmacy and a Graduate Division in Education and Black Catholic Studies. Xavier has established itself as the national leader in placing African Americans in medical school for nearly two decades. Likewise, its College of Pharmacy is among the top three producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients every year.

Xavier also recently announced the Norman C. Francis Scholarships, named in honor of the university's longstanding president. It offers a full tuition scholarship for the top graduates from New Orleans area public schools.

High school juniors or seniors who wish to learn more information about scholarships and applying to Xavier University may visit the website at [www.xula.edu/admissions](http://www.xula.edu/admissions). Prospective students can also view Xavier's latest admissions video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/xunews> to see for themselves why students and alumni say “It Happens at Xavier!”