



SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

Distinguished Community Award Recipients 2012



The Honorable Federico F. Peña is being honored as a Distinguished Saint Joseph Academy Alumnus for his exceptional leadership, vision, integrity and determination to aid his fellow citizens and country. As former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and U.S. Secretary of Energy, a member of the Colorado House of Representatives and the first Hispanic Mayor of Denver, Mr. Peña has a proven record of accomplishments and public service. He possesses a genuine concern and compassion for his community – with measurable contributions on both the national level and on a personal level for the citizens of Colorado, Texas, and especially his native Brownsville. Mr. Peña is a member of the St. Joe Class of 1964 and a primary advocate of our Academy and Montagne Project. It is only fitting that Mr. Federico Peña be the first Saint Joseph Academy Alumnus to receive this special recognition.



As an organization, "*Teens Helping Kids*" is a group of young individuals who have demonstrated leadership and service through their time, talent and treasures for the benefit of Monica's and Maggie's House as well as other community organizations. Since its inception, these students have raised \$400,000 to help meet the needs of children and families in our community. Formed by St. Joe students, the group's motto is "Lending Hands to Kids of our Community." It has certainly succeeded. These young people are an inspiration to their peers, who are the next generation of leaders and volunteers. We are honored to present the President's Distinguished Community Service Award to "Teens Helping Kids."



Mrs. Mellena H. Conner receives the President's Award as a Distinguished Community Leader. Mrs. Conner is an inspirational individual who has enthusiastically performed extraordinary service in Brownsville, throughout the Rio Grande Valley, and beyond. She epitomizes this award as demonstrated by her vision for the Mitte Cultural District and the Dean Porter Park Renovation Project, which she chaired and was one of her greatest accomplishments. In addition to her unwavering commitment to the Children's Museum, Mrs. Conner served several terms as President with her husband on the St. Joe Advisory Board and Athletic Boosters during their tenure at our school. In a very quiet and unassuming way, Mrs. Conner has improved the quality of life in our community through her leadership, voluntarism and philanthropy. Saint Joseph Academy is proud to present Mrs. Conner with the inaugural President's Distinguished Community Service Award.