



SALUTE Founders Join Saint Viator's Speaker Series

August 30, 2011



Will and Mary Beth Beiersdorf, founders of SALUTE, Inc.

The idea started at their kitchen table. That's where Will and Mary Beth Beiersdorf resolved to form a foundation to help other military families make it through a deployment.

Eight years later, SALUTE, Inc. has helped families across the country --- particularly those of wounded military veterans --- and drawn the attention of the nation's mayors at this year's U.S. Conference of Mayors' winter meeting.

"We didn't plan on this, but it truly has changed our lives," Mary Beth Beiersdorf told the Mayors' conference. "Now, the greatest gift we have, is knowing the families we help are moving forward."

Their story of empowerment through service will be one of many shared at Saint Viator High School during the final installment of the Shaping the Future Speaker Series, which is part of the school's 50th anniversary celebration. The segment takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20 and examines the theme, "Awakening the Servant in Young People."

Along with the Beiersdorfs, the panel will feature Illinois State Sen. Matt Murphy; the Rev. Scott Donahue, president and CEO of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls; and Sean Sanford, founder and president of Center for FaithJustice based in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Monsignor Kenneth Velo, founder of the Big Shoulders Foundation and senior executive for Catholic Collaboration at DePaul University, will deliver the keynote address.

"An element of service has always been an integral part of the Saint Viator High School experience," says the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president. "Our goal has been to not only require service hours from students during their four years here but to influence a lifetime of service after they leave."

This forum follows up the two earlier speaker series events, which examined the value of fine arts in a well rounded education, as well as innovation in preparing students to contribute to a global society.

The speaker series takes place in Saint Viator's Jeuck Auditorium and is open to the public. Admission is free. For more information visit: www.saintviator.com.