

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2012

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"Cascades Academy Receives \$2 million Lead Gift for New Campus"

(BEND, Oregon) - So far, 2012 has been a record breaking year for Cascades Academy. The school announced this week that it received a \$2 million matching gift from the James and Kelly Young Family Foundation to help build the school's new campus located near Tumalo State Park. This donation is the largest gift in the school's nine year history and is an important first step in making the dream of a new campus a reality.

In pledging their support for Cascades Academy, James and Kelly Young, whose grandchildren attend the school, shared, "We're pleased to be able to make this gift to Cascades Academy to build its new campus. This exceptional school is much more than a place where children come to learn: it is a family. Small classes allow the teachers to really get to know the students and to nurture each individual's talents and opportunities for growth. Engaged in what they are learning and surrounded by others who are equally engaged, students at Cascades Academy become critical thinkers and life-long learners. We couldn't be happier to contribute to the future of such an important and valuable asset to Bend."

The new campus will be housed on a beautiful 21-acre piece of land in Bend neighboring Tumalo State Park. The sustainably-designed building will provide an inspirational learning environment and include two classroom wings, a versatile Commons area, gymnasium, outdoor classrooms as well as modern science, art, music, library, and technology facilities. With the Deschutes River and Tumalo State Park within easy walking distance, students will be able to take full advantage of the natural surroundings, which will easily lend itself to the environmental study, outdoor education and other hands-on, experiential learning programs the school has embraced since its inception in 2003.

Upon receipt of this gift Blair Jenkins, Head of School, stated, "We feel incredibly fortunate to have received this gift from the James and Kelly Young Family Foundation. With their support, we are now able to begin the next phase of our efforts: raising the additional \$2 million in matching contributions. If we can achieve this goal by February, we will be ready to break ground this spring and complete the new campus by the fall of 2013. This pledge has already inspired other donors to give over \$500,000 to the \$2 million matching fund. Although we still have hard work ahead of us before we can put a shovel in the ground, we are well on our way to realizing our vision."

The building of the new campus is especially timely given the school's continued enrollment growth. Student enrollment increased 15% in the last year alone, and the school is nearing capacity at its current location on Studio Road.

"It's a good problem to be growing," says Blair Jenkins. "It's an exciting time in the school's history, and we are thrilled with the thought of expanding the program to make it available to more Central Oregon students."

About Cascades Academy:

Cascades Academy of Central Oregon is a K-12 independent school in Bend, Oregon. The school offers a challenging college preparatory curriculum that integrates experiential learning, outdoor education, arts and community service. In an effort to make the school accessible to as many students as possible, the school offers a substantial need and merit-based scholarship program for qualified students. For more information about Cascades Academy, please visit the school's website at www.cascadesacademy.org.