The Future For Young Women Is Limitless.

We have welcomed 2021 with hearts full of hope! The pandemic presented us with unimaginable challenges, but we have emerged a stronger, more agile community. We have a renewed appreciation for all that we have been blessed with, for our Faith, and for one another.

As we approach the Academy’s 75th anniversary this fall, my dedication to our motto—Excelsior, Ever Higher— is steadfast. I am eager to embark on our path forward, cultivating our community of confident women and inspiring them to pursue their ambitions with conviction. The future for young women is not only bright, it is limitless.

Building upon the results of our 2019 NEASC accreditation and with some reflection on the impact of this past year, the school leadership team and I have identified key initiatives for growth.

Through these initiatives we will:

**Enhance our academic program to meet the needs of our rapidly changing world.**

Our focus will be not only academic competencies, but the interconnected skills needed to promote compassionate and resilient learners in a college preparatory environment. As our teachers continue to innovate in the classroom, our students will be encouraged to demonstrate their knowledge through podcasts, videos and other innovative displays of applied learning.
Establish a program to educate our students on leadership and offer them meaningful opportunities to enhance these skills within the school community.
There are so many advantages to our all-girls environment. We empower our students to express themselves freely and frequently and to be bold yet mindful of all leadership qualities including teamwork and compassion. Our goal is to provide our students with the opportunities to apply these skills, and to not just think, but really know that nothing can stand in their way.

Create educational and developmental standards to build our capacity and competence around diversity, equity and inclusion.
Through this work, our students will be empowered to take action in contributing to an equitable and sustainable society. I feel blessed that the diversity of our faculty and staff has doubled this year and that we welcomed five women of color to our Advisory Council. I am also grateful for the work of Paula Rice P’18, ’21 as Chair of the DEI Committee for the work that she and this group are doing to move these important initiatives forward.

Deepen the spiritual formation of our community members by facilitating personal connection with Jesus Christ, our Charism and Mission of faith and service.
Sharing the life and work of Blessed Clelia Merloni, the foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, connects us to our Mission. This fearless leader stood in the face of adversity in order to share God’s love. With support from the Apostles, we will leverage programs including Clelian Center and Charism Connection. Through these multi-day immersive programs, our faculty and students will have the opportunity to embrace and advance the charism of Blessed Clelia throughout our school community.

These plans will inspire and unite our community around our purpose and ensure that Sacred Heart Academy continues to remain a leader in educating young women in the Catholic tradition.

STAY CONNECTED
Click the icons to follow our official social channels to stay connected with all things Excelsior!
Introducing The Young Alumnae Leadership Circle

There are more than 7,000 Excelsior women throughout the world who call Sacred Heart Academy their alma mater. Our graduates are part of an everlasting sisterhood, grounded in our core values and unified in our Mission.

To continue the tradition of nurturing these connections, The Young Alumnae Leadership Circle (YALC) has been established to foster and sustain relationships with graduates of the last decade.

The YALC currently consists of young alumnae who will assist the Office of Alumnae Relations in the development of programs to support our newest alumnae as they navigate college and early stages of professional life, while deepening their engagement and relationship with the Academy. The YALC will also inspire the work of alumnae volunteers and future leaders in ways that strengthen their commitment to the Academy and the impact they have in their communities.

Kristen Edwards ’07 is founding chair of the committee and has been instrumental in its development. She shares, “I am honored to be serving my alma mater in this new role. We are given an opportunity to share and live out the mission and values though our careers and in our global community. This council is excited to expand the SHA legacy with innovation and integrity.” We are grateful to Kristen and all our volunteers as they lead the way in redefining our alumnae engagement program and forge meaningful opportunities for our alumnae community to stay connected.

Kristen Edwards ’07, Chair

PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT

The Sacred Heart Academy Heritage Society honors alumnae and friends who have included the Academy in their estate plans. Making a planned gift to SHA is a rewarding and powerful way to help us continue to grow our endowment and contribute to future generations of SHA graduates.

Most recently, Roberta DeLay Smith ’53 and Anne and Mark Michaud P’20, ’23 have informed us that Sacred Heart Academy is part of their estate plans. Such thoughtfulness and generosity fills us with gratitude and faith that the future is bright for SHA. If you have arranged a future gift through a bequest in your will or by naming Sacred Heart Academy as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement fund, we would be honored to recognize you as a member of this special group of Excelsior women and friends. Please visit the Heritage Society page on our website to learn more.

Leave Your Mark
Adjoa Yeboah ‘21 - UCONN Nutmeg Scholar

The Nutmeg Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship awarded by the University of Connecticut. Out of over 1,200 nominations, 20 Nutmeg Scholarship offers were made to graduating high school seniors. Recipients demonstrate exceptional academic ability, have performed notable service to their school and community, and possess the qualities of a compassionate citizen and leader.

With tremendous pride we congratulate Adjoa Yeboah on this remarkable recognition. Adjoa is a dedicated, kind, and passionate student who truly represents our core values. She is leader in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the hallways, respected by her teachers and peers.

Adjoa shares, "I am honored to receive this scholarship and I am excited about the possibility of choosing to attend UCONN, where I will have so many amazing opportunities because of this award! I’m also very thankful to Mrs. Alexander in the Guidance Office for believing in me and nominating me for this scholarship."

Jayson Hodge, Associate Director of Admissions at UCONN shared, “The Nutmeg Scholarship seeks to recognize some of the most exceptional students the State of Connecticut has to offer. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is very proud to offer such a recognition to Adjoa and hopes she will join us in the fall, where she will truly make a difference in our community.”

Excelsior Woman SPOTLIGHT

Rita Matta ’12, PhD recently defended her thesis, "The Role of Microvascular Signaling in the Neurogenic Niche" at Yale University. Rita credits her teachers at SHA for fueling her scientific passions.

How did SHA prepare you for college and beyond?
SHA’s science and math curriculum was critical to my success as an engineering student in college. I was able to obtain 19 college credits while at SHA, which propelled me a semester ahead in college and enabled me to excel in my curriculum.

What advice would you give a SHA student today?
Take advantage of the wonderful faculty and alumnae as resources to help guide your trajectory. Talk to as many people as you can about what interests and inspires you. Lastly, form your network so that you have mentors along the way!

What has your path been like since graduation?
I graduated from UCONN Engineering in 2016 with my Bachelor’s Degree. I interned at two medical device companies - Covidien and Medtronic. These internships inspired me to pursue graduate school after college to obtain my PhD. I recently obtained my doctorate from Yale Biomedical Engineering and will be working as a senior engineer at BD, a global medical technology company, soon.

Why do you stay connected and support SHA?
I support SHA primarily in honor of the teachers, especially Sr. Mary Jane who encouraged me to pursue an education and career in STEM. I would love to continue her legacy by becoming a resource for other young women who are interested in this field.