

## State of the School by Headmaster McQuarrie

The thoughtful and careful leveraging of our resources and support for Erskine Academy made us a high performing school in 2012–13. The combined influence and efforts of our teachers, students, parents, and alumni have established for our school the sixth highest graduation rate (nearly 98% of our students graduate in four years) and one of the lowest dropout rates in the state. This achievement, along with our students' three-year average scores on state mathematics and reading tests, has earned our school the letter grade "B" in the first year of Maine's school performance grading system program, a grade not typical of most schools in our region.

A private school serving a public purpose, with 571 students in grades nine through twelve, Erskine is the second largest town academy in Maine and the only one to serve a completely voluntary student body exclusively on a school choice basis. As has been the case historically, 97% of our students come primarily from eight sending towns; a small number, which now includes 13 international students, attend on a private basis. Therefore, our students come from primarily humble, hard-working backgrounds and circumstances to experience a school program that blends traditional values with contemporary programs and modern methods to become the most academically and personally prepared young people in the region.

A sampling of the activities pursued by our students and staff this past year is testimony to the vibrancy of the Erskine Academy community:

-  Thirteen courses taught here for college credit by a first-class teaching corps has resulted in nearly two-thirds of seniors earning credits for a considerable savings in college tuition.
-  The addition of the "Jobs for Maine Graduates" program teaches essential work seeking, training, and employment skills.
-  Eighty-seven percent of the Class of 2013 was accepted into some form of higher education, many to the most selective colleges in the nation.
-  A competitive robotics class and club were added and funded primarily by grants and financial gifts from our friends and alumni.
-  For a third time, we brought nearly 250 area sixth graders to our school for a program of early exposure to high school designed to build their confidence for doing high school work.
-  Our students have done a great deal of good, contributing literally thousands of hours of community service and raising a similar amount in dollars to aid those in need from nearby and afar, as far as Costa Rica, in fact.
-  A 5th Annual Walk to Cure Breast Cancer Walk, with nearly 100% of our student body participating, raised in excess of \$3,000 for the MaineGeneral Breast Care Center.

Placing equal value on scholarship, leadership, stewardship and relationships, we have articulated a vision of academic success for all students; created a climate that is safe, supportive, and hospitable to education; and cultivated responsible leadership and civic-mindedness in our young people.

We enthusiastically welcome and educate a substantial number of our region's high schoolers. The families and tuition-paying communities that have entrusted us to educate and care for their children these many years, energizes, encourages, and strengthens our resolve to provide the highest quality educational program possible and the conditions to inspire our students to their highest potential in school, at work, and within their communities. We are grateful for your confidence in and support for Erskine Academy.

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**We are grateful for your confidence in and support for Erskine Academy. We greatly appreciate your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, which are acknowledged in the *Report of Contributions* on pages 8–12.**