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**Mary Elizabeth Grimes, President of Marian Middle School,  
Receives Women of Influence Award from RISE Collaborative**

*Tickets available now to attend panel discussion featuring women leaders*

[St. Louis, MO – Feb. 19, 2019] Marian Middle School is pleased to announce that Mary Elizabeth Grimes, President of Marian Middle School, will be honored with a “Women of Influence” Award from RISE Collaborative for her work as a community leader. As a hub for female empowerment, RISE Collaborative is a dynamic and carefully curated community of women leaders who support each other’s success through networking and collaborative workspaces. The award recognizes the powerful impact of women and celebrates their remarkable successes.

“From the small business owner to the corporate officer, women are making waves and driving change. Over the course of her career, Mary Elizabeth Grimes has dedicated herself to the community, ensuring that young girls from disadvantaged circumstances have access to a strong educational foundation, and a bright college and career path, especially through her work at Marian Middle School,” said Stacy Taubman, Founder and CEO, RISE Collaborative. “She’s the epitome of a great female leader – one who has personally committed herself and an entire community to elevate and empower the next generation of female leaders. I’m thrilled that our guests will receive the opportunity to hear her words of wisdom at our award ceremony!”

“Throughout my childhood, college and career path, I have been blessed to be among the company of women who had a vision for my success, and they were there to make sure I stayed on that path even when I faced adversity. I felt called to Marian to ensure that every young girl, no matter her circumstance, had a similar community around her,” said Grimes. “Likewise, we are fortunate in St. Louis to have a professional community of women ready to raise each other up through RISE. I’m truly honored to be among the amazing women recognized and look forward to connecting with ALL of the powerful women in the room during the event!”

Grimes will receive the RISE Collaborative Women of Influence honor at the Award Ceremony on February 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the RISE Collaborative workspace on 8820 Ladue Road.

Other female leader honorees include:

- Corporate: Donna Erbs
- Small Business: Jenny Bristow
- Start-up: Reshma Chamberlin
- Nonprofit: Kathy Lambert

Tickets for the award ceremony and panel are \$20 and can be purchased at <http://www.riseworkspace.com/new-events/women-of-influence-award-ceremony>.

Based in St. Louis, Marian Middle School is a Catholic school which serves 75 girls in middle school, then supports them through high school, college and career success. Students travel from 30 zip codes to receive a life-altering education, and 85 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, a national indicator of poverty. Now celebrating nearly two decades educating girls for life, Marian supports high school and college graduation rates that vastly exceed local and national standards. More than 250 alumnae have graduated from Marian Middle School, with 73 currently in high school and more than 50 enrolled in college. Upcoming events to support Marian Girls include the Marian Magic Gala on April 27, and a Trivia Night, April 13. To learn more, visit: <https://marianmiddleschool.org/school-events/>.

### **About Marian Middle School**

Since 2000, Marian Middle School has been committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by fostering the spiritual, academic, social, moral, emotional, and physical development of girls from low-income backgrounds. Marian Middle School meets each student at her level, takes into account her challenges and strengths, and brings her to the highest possible level of academic achievement upon graduation through its challenging and innovative academic, enrichment, and graduate support programs. *Educating Girls for Life*, Marian Middle School follows and supports girls from their middle school years through college and into the workforce, so they are equipped to make informed decisions and create enduring, positive change. Visit [www.marianmiddleschool.org](http://www.marianmiddleschool.org) for more information.

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