

Press Release

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RES STUDENTS HOSTED DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL BIPARTISAN COOPERATION



Melissa Gotsch '12 and Shannon Callahan '12
with Alderman Mary O'Connor '77



Political Science class members encourage classmates to write to
elected officials as part of the Bipartisan Bake Sale.

Frustrated by the recent failure of the Senate Super Committee to compromise on a way to reduce the federal deficit, students in the Resurrection College Prep High School Accelerated Political Science class hosted an assembly on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 to speak to fellow students about the need for bipartisan cooperation from both Democrats and Republicans. The class members decided to launch a symbolic project named *"The Bipartisan Bake Sale: Baking Across the Aisles"* in order to demonstrate that students of differing political views can work together to create solutions to problems facing the nation.

Students invited local politicians to attend. State Representative Michael McAuliffe, Chief of Staff Kim Stark for State Senator John Mulroe, and Chicago Aldermen Mary O'Connor (41st Ward) and John Arena (45th Ward) attended the student presentation in support of the students' efforts and to listen to their concerns and solutions. Alderman O'Connor, an alumna of Resurrection College Prep High School, stressed the importance of young women's involvement in the political process.

U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky also expressed her support for this project and will be speaking to the entire student body at Resurrection College Prep High School on January 12, 2012 on the issues of bipartisan cooperation, the federal deficit, budgetary issues and political involvement by students. Other

officials invited to the student assembly also included State Representative John D'Amico, and Chicago Aldermen Nicholas Sposato (36th) and Margaret Laurino (39th).

During the assembly the members of the Political Science class presented information about the national deficit and how it impacts students and their families. They urged classmates to write to their elected officials and to support the bake sale, which was held the next day. "I am so proud that my students took initiative and started this grassroots effort," said Political Science teacher Denise Lenihan. "These young women impress me daily with their motivation and desire to positively impact their community. I am hopeful that their effort can convince others to voice their concerns to their representatives."

"*The Bipartisan Bake Sale*" was held on December 14, 2011 and raised over \$500, which included contributions from Alderman O'Connor, State Representative McAuliffe and State Senator Mulroe. Funds raised from the bake sale will be sent to Congress as a both a real and symbolic effort to reduce the national debt. Along with the contribution to the federal deficit, students have included a letter to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, the senior senator from Illinois who has worked closely on the deficit proposals that went through Congress this fall. The students are looking forward to continuing the discussion on these important issues and are planning another event for the second semester of the school year.

Resurrection College Prep High School, located at 7500 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago, is the largest all-girls Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school on the north side of Chicago. Since its founding in 1922, Resurrection has graduated over 13,000 alumnae. For more information about Resurrection College Prep High School, call 773.775.6616 Ext 129 or visit www.reshs.org.