

## Archbishop Carroll High School unveils Jim Vance Media Program to continue news anchor's legacy

By Richard Szczepanowski

Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington unveiled its new Jim Vance Media Program at a December 7 news conference, introducing a four-year media studies course that will teach “the principles, practices and techniques of journalism.”

“Our students will learn to communicate across various (media) platforms,” said Dr. Cherie Ward, director of the program. “They will learn responsible reporting and responsible messaging across the digital media.”

The program is named after Jim Vance, a veteran NBC News Channel 4 anchor in Washington who died in 2017 at the age of 75 after a brief battle with cancer. For many years prior to his death, Vance sponsored an annual scholarship at Archbishop Carroll High School, and offered support to Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Parish’s Community Action Group program providing outreach to families affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

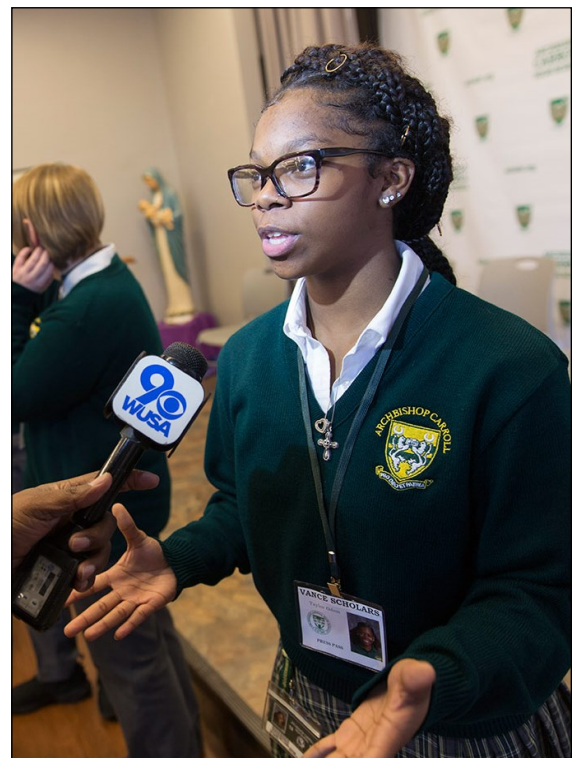
In 2012, Vance received the Archbishop Carroll High School Hall of Honor Award

Kathy Vance, widow of the late newscaster, noted that her husband “loved people, loved to teach and loved to reach out and help others,” and said the new media center at Carroll honors her husband’s commitment that “every student has a chance to learn and grow.”

Each year, the program will provide full-tuition scholarships to about 20 students, known as Vance Scholars. Next spring, Archbishop Carroll High School will break ground on a “media space” that will offer the Vance Scholars broadcast and recording studios, editing booths and suites, and master control rooms.

“This will be a specialized learning space that will ensure our people will have a place to hone their craft,” said Larry Savoy, Archbishop Carroll’s president. “This program change their (students’) trajectory for tomorrow.”

The Jim Vance Media Program is made possible through a \$5 million donation from Steven Newby, a retired stockbroker and a long-time benefactor of the school. It is the largest gift in the school’s history.



Taylor Odom '22, a student in the inaugural class of the new Jim Vance Media Program, gives an interview to WUSA9 on December 7.

CS PHOTO BY JACLYN LIPPELMANN

Newby, who is neither Catholic nor a Carroll alumnus, said that while he has donated to primarily minority colleges and high schools over the years, his gift “was about something more important than money.”

“This donation is about getting these scholars ready for the future and honoring and recognizing the good man Jim Vance was,” he said.

Vance taught English at a public school in Philadelphia, the metropolitan area where he grew up, before beginning his career in journalism at a newspaper and radio station in that city. ♦



Several students (front row) from the inaugural group of Vance Scholars pose for photos after a December 7 press conference announcing the program. The students are being taught broadcast, print and new media skills while the media center is under construction. (CS photos/Jaclyn Lippelmann)