Kendra Rodriguez
210-731-3142
krodriguez@maccsa.org

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Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) welcomes network of Catholic organizations which help ministers thrive

SAN ANTONIO – Seven Catholic organizations dedicated to helping ministers thrive will be gathering at the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) September 9 to 13. Catholic Rural Life has convened the cohort online for several months and is facilitating the in-person meeting. MACC is hosting it and coordinating a border immersion trip to the McAllen area. MACC has several partners in the Rio Grande Valley and will connect cohort partners with these South Texas partners. Cohort partners will gain a better understanding of the immigration experience, as well as of the poverty that exists along the southern border.

MACC and other organizations in the cohort were awarded grants through Leadership Education at Duke University to explore ways in which these agencies can collaborate. Leadership Education aims to create lasting change in U.S. congregations by supporting Christian leaders and the institutions they serve. It designs educational services, develops intellectual resources, and facilitates networks of institutions which cultivate a coherent vision of Christian institutional leadership and form Christian leaders. Leadership Education is a non-degree-granting initiative of Duke Divinity School funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. and based in Durham, N.C. All organizations participating in this gathering are recipients of Lilly Endowment's "Thriving in Ministry" initiative (https://thrivinginministry.org/).

Alaina Kleinbeck, associate executive director for Coordination at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, stated: "The Cohort Formation Grant Program at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity is an important opportunity for organizations in the Thriving in Ministry initiative to engage one another in

focused conversations that strengthen the capacities and networks that support pastorals leaders. These affinity-based cohorts have brought together unique and diverse conversation partners that we hope will catalyze new imagination and collaborations for the good of Christ's Church."

The Mexican American Catholic College is dedicated to empowering and educating leaders for service in a culturally diverse church and society. In 2020, MACC received $1 million from Lilly Endowment under the Thriving in Ministry initiative.

Bishop Mike Boulette, chairman of MACC, said of the gathering: "We are thrilled to embark on new collaborative initiatives with other Catholic organizations. MACC recognizes the importance of unity and collaboration, and we believe that by coming together, we can leverage our collective strengths, experiences, and resources to better support our pastoral leaders and ultimately enhance their ability to serve communities."

Catholic organizations gathering at MACC are Leadership Roundtable, McGrath Institute at Notre Dame University, Catholic Rural Life, St. Thomas University in Miami, Catholic Extension Society, and Catholic Theological Union.

For more information on the gathering, contact Kendra Rodriguez at krodriguez@maccsa.org