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**BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE HELPING BURST PRIVATE COLLEGE TUITION BUBBLE
WITH TUITION RESET TO UNDER \$20K FOR NEW STUDENTS**

Major Reduction Aims to Make Private Education More Accessible by Closing Gap Between
Published Tuition Price and Actual Cost

BELMONT, N.C. (November 28, 2012) – Private Catholic College Belmont Abbey today announced it is doing its part to burst the college tuition bubble by reducing its annual tuition cost to \$18,500 beginning in fall 2013. This represents an almost \$10,000 per year reduction in the College's published tuition price for incoming freshmen and transfer students.

“Over the past 25 years, average college tuition and fees in the United States has increased more than 440 percent,” said Belmont Abbey College President, Dr. William K. Thierfelder. “At more than four times the rate of inflation, that's not sustainable for the average American family so it's time to reverse the trend.”

Similar-sized colleges have announced tuition resets over the past two years, largely due to declining enrollment numbers. However, Belmont Abbey's reduction in tuition “sticker price” comes at a time of growth for the College that celebrated its highest traditional undergraduate enrollment ever in 2012. This fall also saw considerable capital improvements such as a new dining hall, fitness facility and renovated student center. Two new residence halls will open in fall 2013 to accommodate the increasing number of resident students.

A 2012 College Board Student Poll of college-bound seniors found more than half had ruled out colleges on sticker price alone without considering potential financial aid awards.

“While we may not be the first private institution to scale back tuition to close the gap between published tuition price and actual cost, our goal is increasing accessibility, not boosting enrollment,” said Dr. Thierfelder. “Belmont Abbey College's tuition reset is a strategic move toward providing an outstanding private college education at an affordable price.

Founded in 1876 by Benedictine monks, Belmont Abbey College focuses on the development of the whole person in mind, body and spirit. Located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., The College is currently home to more than 1700 students. For more information, please visit www.BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu.

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