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Bishop McCort Catholic High School | 25 Osborne Street | Johnstown, PA 15905

**For Immediate Release:** BMCHS Alumnus Featured Speaker for 2017 Graduation

**Photo File Attached**

**Johnstown, PA, May 1, 2017.** Stephen J. Czech, a 1981 graduate of Bishop McCort Catholic High School, will deliver the annual Commencement Address to the McCort Graduating Class of 2017 at 6 p.m. on June 2, 2017 at Penn Highlands Community College Auditorium. Seating is available by ticket only. The 2017 graduation ceremony will mark the second time that Mr. Czech has been a keynote speaker at a McCort commencement, with the first occasion being in 2012.

Stephen J. Czech, is the Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer of Czech Asset Management, L.P. ("CAM"), a Greenwich, Connecticut- based direct lending firm with approximately \$4.3 billion of committed capital under management and engaged in providing privately negotiated, asset-based and cash-flow secured floating rate senior secured loans to U.S.-based middle market manufacturing, transportation and distribution companies.

Steve has over 28 years of credit and corporate finance experience as well as a long record of establishing and running direct lending credit funds. His experience includes sourcing, structuring, underwriting, monitoring and restructuring corporate loans. Prior to forming Czech Asset Management, L.P., Steve was employed by several prominent Wall Street firms, including, but not limited to, Morgan Stanley, Credit Suisse Group AG, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette ("DLJ") and Banc of America Securities LLC.

Steve and his family are significant donors to, and advocates of, causes related to: (i) terminally-ill children, (ii) active-duty and retired Navy SEALs and their families; (iii) first-responders (ie: Police, Fire and EMTs); and (iv) scholarships for underprivileged high-school students throughout the United States. Steve is the founder and CoChairman of The Mikey Czech Foundation ([www.mikeyczech.org](http://www.mikeyczech.org)), a member of The Navy SEAL Foundation National Leadership Council, a member of the Advisory Board of The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, a Laureate member of the Dean's Society of The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, a member of Villanova University's President's Club & Parents Executive Committee, a member of the Aesclepien Society of Harvard/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and a member of the Harvard/Dana-Farber Presidential Visiting Committee for Pediatric Oncology. Steve is also the Chairman of the Board of Alfred Angelo, Inc. Steve received a B.S. from Marquette University and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Steve and his wife Jennifer are the sponsors of a Bishop McCort Named Scholarship, *The James Michael "Mikey" Czech Memorial Scholarship*, established in honor of their only son Mikey, who died in September 2008 at age 11 of an extremely rare form of brain cancer. Since its inception, *The James Michael "Mikey" Czech Memorial Scholarship* has enabled 90 students to attend Bishop McCort Catholic High School on scholarship.

**About Bishop McCort Catholic High School:** Bishop McCort Catholic High School (BMCHS), built in 1922, is an incorporated Catholic high school located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, approximately 67 miles east of Pittsburgh. Students of all religious denominations are challenged daily throughout the curriculum and school program to develop independent critical thinking skills necessary to be competitive in today's global economy. One indicator of the quality of McCort's academic program is the success of students in baccalaureate studies. The class of 2016 was offered \$7.0 million in scholarships with 92% planning to pursue post-secondary degrees. In addition, those students made the time to perform 6,200 hours of community service during their senior year. BMCHS is accredited by the Middle States Commission and the PA Department of Education. Learn more about BMCHS at [www.mccort.org](http://www.mccort.org).