

“Seniors, You Are Shining Like the Sun”



“Welcome to one of the best Tuesdays of your life,” said **Adiah Coffey '18**, as she began her valedictory address to DePaul Cristo Rey’s Class of 2018. The 65 graduates,

their families, guests, teachers and DPCR staff celebrated this “best Tuesday” on May 29 at **Mount St. Joseph University**.

Commencement activities began the week prior when the school community gathered for Baccalaureate Mass. Assistant Principal **Paul Ebert** gave a reflection based on the Gospel of Matthew, joyfully admonishing the graduates to see themselves as the light of the world. “This is the awesome truth, the awesome responsibility that we must believe in about one another and about ourselves: there is light in every one of us, a grace, a charisma, a wonder to behold and it is our responsibility to share with the world,” he said. “And I want you to know, from the bottom of my heart, that when I look out at all of you today, to me, you are shining like the sun.”

In her commencement address **Dr. Karen Bankston**, executive director of Cincinnati’s Child Poverty Collaborative, encouraged the class, reminding them, “This journey is a marathon, not a sprint. You’re not coming back to high school, but you’re not done learning.” *More inside on page five.*



The Class of 2018:

- included **65** seniors
- completed **1159** college applications
- committed to **17** colleges and universities
- earned **\$10.8 million** in merit-based scholarships (224 total)



A Letter from the President

Dear Friends of DePaul Cristo Rey:

What a groundbreaking year this has been! Our fourth graduating class of 65 students – all accepted to four-year colleges and universities – broke a DePaul Cristo Rey record as they earned over \$10.8 million in merit-based scholarships. Our students in their roles as Cincinnati’s youngest professionals were second in the Cristo Rey Network in job performance for the first semester. They are on target to finish among the top five for the second semester as well. We retired our first athletic number and jersey for **Heaven Evans '18** whose DPCR basketball career has been outstanding. And this only scratches the surface of our successes.

The story of the moment, however, is that DePaul Cristo Rey has finally broken ground on new permanent buildings, here on our campus. After two years of campus master planning and an intensive, inclusive building design process, we are underway to create the classrooms, labs, high school gymnasium, cafeteria, college counseling and Corporate Work Study centers, and administrative support offices to enhance our students’ educational needs. As a Cristo Rey school, we are also committed to providing additional facilities that address other issues that impact their academic performance: a student laundry facility, food pantry, health and hygiene center, nurse and social work services. Students will be able to access all of these with a degree of privacy that distressed teenagers need and deserve.

Construction begins this summer on the first of three phases. In order to keep school operating during the 24-26 months of construction, we begin by constructing the gym, cafeteria, kitchen and fine arts stage/classroom in the middle of our main parking lot. I have asked everyone here at the school – and I extend this request to everyone who will visit here over the next two years – to keep a sense of humor. A bit of inconvenience will reap a huge reward in the long run!

I can’t wait until I can start hosting hard hat tours as the project develops. You are most welcome to be part of this campaign as we close the gap of approximately \$2 million to be able to complete the entire campus. Thanks for being part of all we have done to break ground in education over the last seven years. We look forward to continuing that tradition for many decades to come!

Gratefully,

S. Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed. D.

Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.
President/CEO

Pictured at the May 22 groundbreaking are (left to right): John Neyer, DPCR Board; Chris Neyer, supporter; Barb Bennie, DPCR Board chair; Linda Fath, supporter; Katie '21; S. Jeanne Bessette, president; S. Joan Cook, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati president; Martin '21; Pat Robertson, DPCR Board; Susan Gibbons, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Schools superintendent; Laura Hunter, Messer Construction; David Arends, CR architecture + design and DPCR Board; and Chris Wilke, principal.



Champions of Change

Table Captains for DePaul Cristo Rey’s Champions of Change Luncheon gathered to plan the school’s newest fundraising event. Champions of Change will be held on Thursday, October 18 at Xavier University’s Cintas Center. At this one-hour fundraising luncheon guests will learn firsthand how DePaul Cristo Rey transforms students into college-ready, young professionals. They will also have the opportunity to make a gift to support DPCR’s life-changing program. For more information about the event or becoming a Table Captain, contact **Lisa Muething** at 513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net.

Rey of Light Is a Brilliant Success

The overwhelming generosity of sponsors, friends and school supporters has led to another brilliantly successful Rey of Light Scholarship Benefit.

Led by event chairs **Julie** and **Brian Ross** and a stellar volunteer committee, the April 28 event raised over \$645,000 with a sold-out crowd of over 460. It is the school's largest and most significant fundraiser providing financial assistance for students.



Brian and Julie Ross, Rey of Light chairs, with President Sister Jeanne Bessette.



S. Sally Duffy, SC, with Manuel III and MacKenzie Chavez.



Ja'nasia '18 and Mickey '18 sold raffle tickets.



Former Rey of Light Chairs Michele and Mike Schuster and Alison Warning.

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- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

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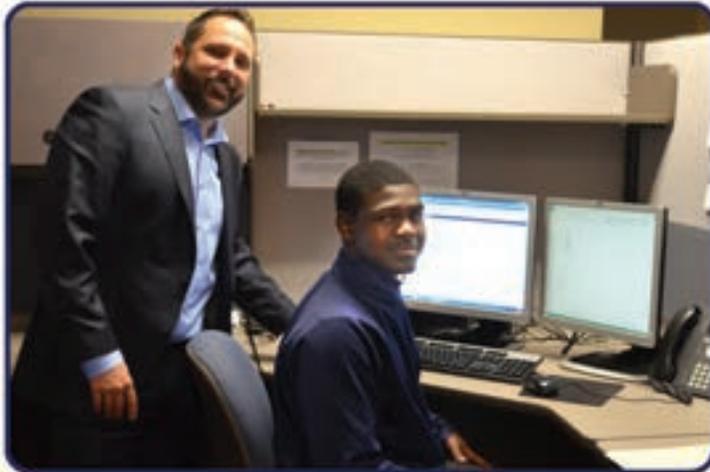
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Partner Profile

The Standard – Preparing Students for Business Now and in the Future



Kendell Adler and Jeremiah '20 at The Standard.

“We want to prepare our student workers for business now and that first job after college,” says **Kendell Adler**, a senior director at **The Standard**, a financial services and insurance company. To do that, The Standard focuses on teaching DePaul Cristo Rey students business acumen, computer and soft skills while they work in its downtown Cincinnati office.

The Standard has been a DPCR Corporate Work Study partner since 2011; the company also partners with the Cristo Rey school in Portland, OR. Kendell began overseeing the program in 2013 and wanted to take it to a higher level. “While we gave students lots of tasks, I didn’t feel we were meeting the overall objectives of the partnership. After talking with our leadership team, we agreed we needed to build our program,” he explains.

The Standard now aims to give students work that is necessary while integrating them into the office. “We want this experience to be meaningful with a goal that when they leave they have gained skills they can use beyond here,” he says. He has enlisted company leaders who are not the students’ supervisors to take the students to lunch at the end of each quarter. “We want to bring students out of their shells and encourage them to talk about themselves, school and their career goals,” he explains. At the end of each school year that lunch includes soliciting the students’ feedback on what they learned and what they think could improve the experience.

Jeremiah '20 worked at The Standard as both a freshman and a sophomore. He impressed his supervisors and was offered a full-time position last summer and again this year. “It gave me a sense of responsibility to have my own money. I helped my mom and bought all of my school clothes,” he says.

One of the first students to work at The Standard was **Maria Luning '15** who also made a lasting impression. “She was a true employee of this office. When she left here we told her you always have a place here, no matter what,” says Kendell. Read an update on what Maria’s doing now on page six.

The commitment, energy and effort The Standard team puts into its partnership with DPCR is obvious and always evolving. As Kendell says, “We continue to look for new things for our student workers to learn so their work doesn’t get repetitive. While they might not see it, we want them to come to know their work is important to this company.”

Seniors and their Supervisors Celebrate

Celebrating their shared success, seniors and their Corporate Work Study supervisors enjoyed the annual Seniors & Supervisors Appreciation Luncheon held at DePaul Cristo Rey. During this May 4 celebration, school leaders recognized the success of the soon-to-be-graduates and the important role their supervisors have played in leading them to graduation and college-readiness.

Special recognition was given to retiring supervisor **Vicki Alford** (center) who has coached and mentored students, including this group, at **Western & Southern Financial Group** since the CWSP’s inception in 2011.



Congratulations Class of 2018!



On to College

The Class of 2018 graduates have committed to 17 colleges and universities including:

- Berea College
- Central State University
- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
- Columbia College of Chicago
- Miami University
- Mount St. Joseph University
- Northern Kentucky University
- The Ohio State University
- Shawnee State University
- Tennessee State University
- Thomas More College
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati
- UC Blue Ash
- University of Kentucky
- Wright State University
- Xavier University

▲ *Sandra Ramirez '18* was recognized with the Credo Perago Floreo Award, the highest honor given to a graduate.

▲ *Tyler Rocquemore '18* received the Distinguished Young Professional Award for Corporate Work Study excellence.



Alumni Profile

Closing in on College Graduation, One of First Grads Is Positioned for Success



As DePaul Cristo Rey's newest graduates prepare to enter college, they can take a lesson and advice from one of its first graduates. "I think getting involved on campus is the most important thing you can do. Don't stay inside your dorm room, get out, meet people and try something new," says **Maria Luning '15**. "Find your thing and embrace it."

Maria, who attends the **University of Findlay**, speaks from experience. Her college resume includes serving as a student ambassador, orientation leader, president of Colleges Against Cancer, secretary of Circle K International, and an organizer of Findlay's dance marathon fundraiser.

"DPCR definitely prepared me for college – especially on the social and professional side of things. I went after leadership positions in clubs and was able to walk into interviews with confidence and look people in the eye," she explains. Her professional experiences

developed as she worked in DPCR's Corporate Work Study Program freshman year at **Xavier University** and the next three at **The Standard**. "The people at The Standard treated me as an adult. They gave me opportunities to increase my responsibilities and expand my horizons. It was a very good environment," she says. "The DPCR teachers used real life experiences to prepare us academically for college," she adds. "I had the opportunity to build relationships with teachers that I have kept up to this day. I come back to visit on every college break."

A criminal justice major, her leadership and service experiences impact her outlook as she considers a future career. "With everything going on in the world, I want to be able to put myself inside a problem and fix it from the inside," she explains. She's on track to graduate in December 2019.

Introducing the Circle of Hope Society

In the past year, generous friends have named DePaul Cristo Rey in their estate plans – very exciting and important news for the future of the school. It signals that our friends believe in our mission and are confident of our future.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the **Circle of Hope Society** to recognize those friends who have included DePaul Cristo Rey as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Society members can name the school as part of their legacy through bequest, life income gifts, trust provisions, real estate, life insurance policies, or retirement plans. Planned gifts are essential to DePaul Cristo Rey's long-term financial well-being and are beneficial to the donor by providing tax and financial benefits.

Whether your estate plans are already in order or you need to take action to do so, please consider including DePaul Cristo Rey in your plans. When you invest in DPCR and our mission, you help to ensure the school's long-term financial stability, as well as fund critical student needs including tuition assistance and the college support program. If you'd like more information or have already included DPCR in your estate, please contact Vice President of Advancement **Sparkle Worley** at 513.861.0600, extension 320, or email sparkle.worley@dpcr.net.

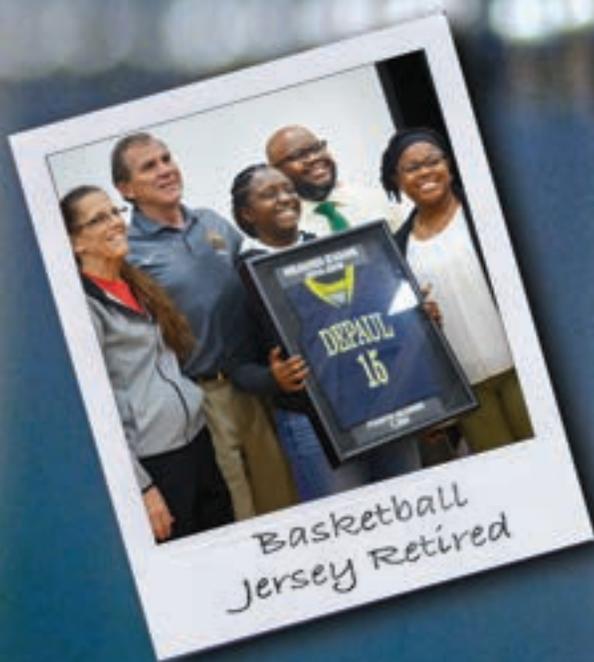


This Spring at DPCR

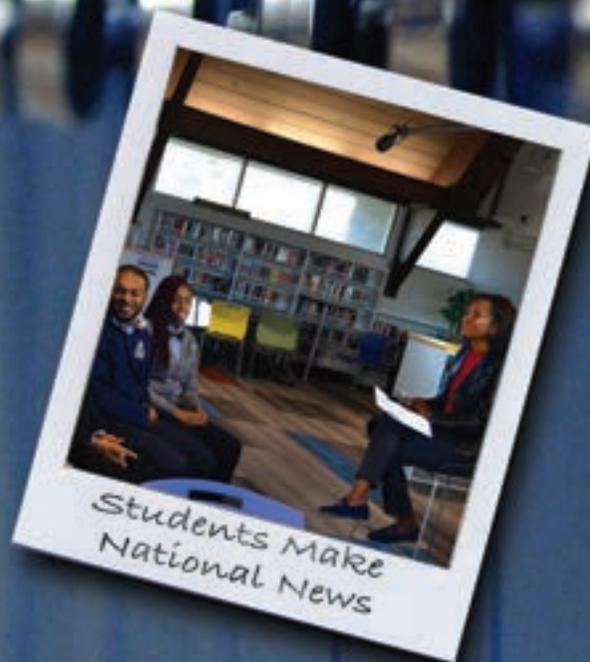


▶ A litter cleanup in Price Hill was among 46 service projects planned and executed by DPCR freshmen as part of the **Bruin Movement**. Through this interdisciplinary collaboration of religion, English and Corporate Work Study lessons, freshmen identified and researched community needs and developed service projects that aligned with Catholic social teaching. They completed a total of 4,340 service hours educating, serving and fundraising on behalf of issues ranging from foster care to mental health awareness.

▶ Cincinnati City Council named Teacher **Manuel Iris, Ph.D.**, the Cincinnati Poet Laureate this spring, a two-year commitment to promote poetry appreciation. It's the latest in Dr. Iris' most recent accomplishments that include the publication of his fifth book of poetry, recognition as a finalist in two categories in the 2018 International Latino Book Awards, and participating in a poetry reading/discussion panel at the Library of Congress on June 8.



▶ In a school first, DPCR has retired the jersey of **Heaven Evans '18** who scored 1,364 points during her Bruin basketball career. A four-year varsity player, she never missed a single game and was recognized for her character and leadership in addition to her athletic excellence.



▶ ABC News correspondent **Deborah Roberts** interviewed students at DPCR this spring for a segment that aired on "Nightline" in May. The story covered the case of **Tyra Patterson**, who was imprisoned 23 years for a crime she says she didn't commit. The students became involved in her case through their junior religion classes. A link to the story is on the DPCR web site.



Golf Classic

7th ANNUAL



Western Hills Country Club

Western Hills Country Club September 24, 2018

- Four-person scramble format
- Skills contests on the course
- Proceeds for student tuition assistance

For more information
contact: Lisa Muething at
lisa.muething@dpcr.net
or 513.861.0600.