

Mark Your Fall Calendars for These Events to Support Our Students

Western Hills Country Club
September 25

DePaul Cristo Rey
12th ANNUAL
Golf Classic



Watch for reservation
information in August.



NOVEMBER 4
at DePaul Cristo Rey

Contact Lisa Muething to learn more at
513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net



**We
Did
It!**



From the President

Dear Friends of DePaul Cristo Rey,

As another school year has come to a close, I am reminded of the impact new visions, fresh starts, and deep relationships have on many, including the students, faculty and staff who call DePaul Cristo Rey home.

In our first year marked by our Vision 2026 Strategic Plan, our community embraced the beauty and challenges of new goals, higher expectations, and a clarity of vision. The *Igniting Dreams*, *Fueling Potential* plan continued to highlight the many great accomplishments of the DePaul Cristo Rey community, with college readiness continuing as our ultimate goal.

The Class of 2023 accomplished another year of 100 percent college acceptance, while our younger students continued to exercise leadership, excitement and maturity in new areas and ways. Our alumni found success and lived the Bruin promise tackling all the things college brings, while our faculty and staff collectively grew through the many new and exciting experiences they shared with our students. From the many academic and out-of-town experiences to Broadway nights in Cincinnati, the Bruin family spent this year working hard and celebrating every new milestone achieved. Together, we enjoyed the ultimate gifts Bruin fellowship and community bring!

Indeed, it was community and fellowship that carried us through. And indeed, it is community and fellowship that you will see most prominently displayed in the pages of this newsletter. Here, you will read stories showcasing our mission in action; stories highlighting incredible student opportunities, Corporate Work Study partners who have gone the extra distance with alumni, and friends who continue to support the transformative work of our school. You will experience the academic program's inaugural docuseries, and all the bright light Cincinnatians brought to another Rey of Light scholarship event. You will see the joy that accompanies the attainment of hard-fought goals, and the power of community binding people together all in the name of opportunities. Above all, you will see the tremendous hope – both near and on the horizon – that secures the ever-growing light of a community which now has its wings.

Yes, community and fellowship have brought us thus far, and it is God's love and favor that will continue to lead all Bruins higher.

Blessings and joy,

Siobhan Taylor, President & CEO



Meet Our New Graduates

Representing the Class of 2023 on our front cover are:

Top Row (left to right):

Donta Martin '23 will attend **Miami University** to study kinesiology; **Gabrielle Bennett '23** will attend **Miami University** to major in sports administration and communication; **Erick Cruz Morales '23** plans to attend the **University of Northwestern Ohio** to study automotive technology and play soccer.

Middle Row (left to right):

Allison Peralta Roda '23 will go to **Miami University** and major in political science; **Lydia Case '23** plans to attend the **University of Cincinnati** to major in criminal justice.

Bottom Row (left to right):

Serenity Stonom '23 will attend **Mount St. Joseph University** to major in biology / pre-med; **Micah Belser '23** plans to attend **Xavier University** to major in psychology; and **Yamaya Lee '23** will go to **Cincinnati State Technical & Community College** to major in culinary arts.

More commencement photos can be found on pages 8 and 9.



Red Carpet Rolled Out for “The Comeback” Premiere

DPCR literally rolled out the red carpet for the premiere of “The Comeback,” a three-part docuseries created by students. The May 10 premiere was the culmination of months of work as students learned and embraced all facets of filmmaking from storyboarding, shot listing, producing, filming, animating, and editing. What began as a class assignment by Teacher **Romayne Jones**, grew into the yearlong project. More than 300 people attended to see the students’ story of life before, during and after the pandemic.

A. Student-filmmakers (left to right): Serenity '23, Aunist '24 and Alaisha '24 at the premiere.

B. Beyonce '24 animated segments of the docuseries and signed posters at the premiere.

C. In the weeks leading up to the premiere, four Cincinnati television stations did preview stories including WCPO where Teacher Romayne Jones, Trinity '25 and Joseph '24 were guests on the Cincy Lifestyle talk show to explain the docuseries project.

D. Student-filmmakers walk the red carpet into DPCR for the premiere of “The Comeback.”



Rey of Light

DePaul Cristo Rey High School

\$775,000+ Raised



Rey of Light chairs Mike and Michele Schuster with DPCR President Siobhan Taylor.

Generous sponsors, eager bidders, dedicated volunteers, and a sold-out crowd all contributed to the success of the Rey of Light Scholarship Benefit, raising over \$775,000 for financial aid for students. Rey of Light was held at DPCR on April 22 and chaired by Michele and Mike Schuster. It included a cocktail hour, dinner, raffles, and silent and live auctions. Among the most popular live auction items were three sets of tickets to Taylor Swift's upcoming Cincinnati concert. One of the highlights of the night was the Fund-A-Need paddle raise which directly raised over \$320,000 for tuition assistance.



Through DPCR's Corporate Work Study Program, Jullius '23 has worked at Messer Construction and is pictured at Rey of Light with Messer's Niki Krebs (center) and Hope Locke (right).



Left to right: Mitch and Kristy Mustain, and Michelle and Eric Ridder from GE Aerospace.



Chris Neyer and Brett Stover were among the guests.



Carolina '24 welcomed guests.



DPCR student volunteers



Academic Dean Katie Hoekzema (left) with Peggy and Tom Pernik.

With Gratitude to Our Rey of Light Sponsors

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 The Schroeder Family



Making Life-changing Connections

After months of sending letters and updates, a May lunch provided the first face-to-face meeting between a group of DPCR freshmen and their sponsors. The Sponsor-A-Student program has made life-changing connections between generous benefactors who have funded scholarships for specific students. **Nancy and Greg Klein** are pictured with **Omari '26**.

The 2022-23 sponsors will have the opportunity to sponsor their student(s) throughout their high school journey. Please consider joining the Sponsor-A-Student Program by sponsoring a member of the class of 2027. Contact **Lisa Muething** to learn more at 513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net

Bruins Can Now Take College Courses Through College Credit Plus

With a new partnership between DPCR and **Cincinnati State Technical & Community College**, DPCR students can now take college classes, for college credit, while still enrolled in high school. Offering students a College Credit Plus (CCP) option is one of the strategic priorities spelled out in DPCR's **Igniting Dreams, Fueling Potential: Vision 2026** strategic plan. It's already come to fruition with 22 students enrolled in Cincinnati State summer classes, including those pictured.



"This is a great opportunity for our students," says **Bernard, "Coach B," Caldwell**, DPCR's director of College Advising. "They will take classes with college-level content, taught by Cincinnati State faculty, and receive Cincinnati State credits that can also transfer to many other colleges where they may enroll after DPCR."

Academic leaders at DPCR will monitor the success of the initial student group before fine-tuning the program for future Bruins. "There are many checks in place to ensure our students will succeed in these college classes," says Coach B, "and our College Advising team will be available to support them through the summer."

The Road to College Starts in Freshman Academy

DePaul Cristo Rey's goal is to get students to and through college starts right away. Every ninth grader's schedule includes the yearlong Freshman Academy class which equips them with skills necessary to succeed academically and emotionally. Freshmen are taught how to strategically learn and to apply those skills in all their classes. **Tina Ernst**, ninth grade college advisor and executive functioning coach, created a curriculum to help students understand what kind of learners they are, and how to identify their strengths, challenges and goals.

Coming into high school, freshmen must adapt to a new environment, teachers and content. Tina begins with a two-week strategy boot camp teaching problem-solving, understanding directions, reading comprehension, writing skills, and more. This explicit strategy instruction helps students across all of their classes. As Freshman Academy progresses, the students learn how to make and track short- and long-term goals. They also research five colleges and then backwards plan how to reach their post-high school goals.

In addition to learning strategies, Tina has other goals for Freshman Academy. "I want to empower our students to be global empathetic advocates for themselves and others," she says. "The whole point of my classroom is to give them a safe place to fail." She believes allowing students to learn from mistakes and grow is the best way to prepare them for the future.



Adonias '26 and Nicholas '26 work to complete a task, regulate their emotions, and beat the clock.

As a licensed intervention specialist, Tina teaches the executive functioning of the brain and how to regulate emotions through class activities. This spring, students performed one such activity in which partners separated and grouped letter tiles under a tight deadline (pictured). Tina explains, "In the first round only two of 70 students could complete the multi-step task. After creating a plan to divide the task between partners and using a specific strategy, all 70 students navigated the task while keeping their emotional regulation in check." She says, "The students identified that emotions impact the ability to do the task because of the stress of time." It was an important lesson as they prepared to move onto the next year of their college-prep studies.

Deloitte Foundation Scholars Named

Nine graduating seniors have received college scholarships as Deloitte Foundation Scholars. In collaboration with the **Cristo Rey Network®**, the **Deloitte Foundation** scholarships support Cristo Rey graduates nationwide who demonstrate academic and leadership excellence, financial need, and intend to pursue specific majors. The Scholars are: *front row (left to right): Aixa Velazquez-Perez '23, Anthony Mason '23, Cristofer Roblero-Aguilar '23, and Bladimir Roblero '23. Back row (left to right): Marchiano Kidd '23, Michael Killings '23, Jullius Nelson '23, and Sean Simms '23. Not pictured: Dandy Bernardo Morales '23.*



Class of 2023 Commencement



Valedictorian Grace Bredestege '23 (left) and Salutatorian Imani Todd '23 (right) led their class academically.



Marquis Monterroza '23 and family.



Terriana Hagood '23 received the Distinguished Young Professional Award as the graduate achieved an outstanding professional transformation through Corporate Work Study.



Gundo Siby '23 received the highest graduate honor, the Credo Perago Floreo Award, for exemplifying all of the characteristics of the school motto, Believe, Achieve, Become. She will attend Mount St. Joseph University on a full scholarship.



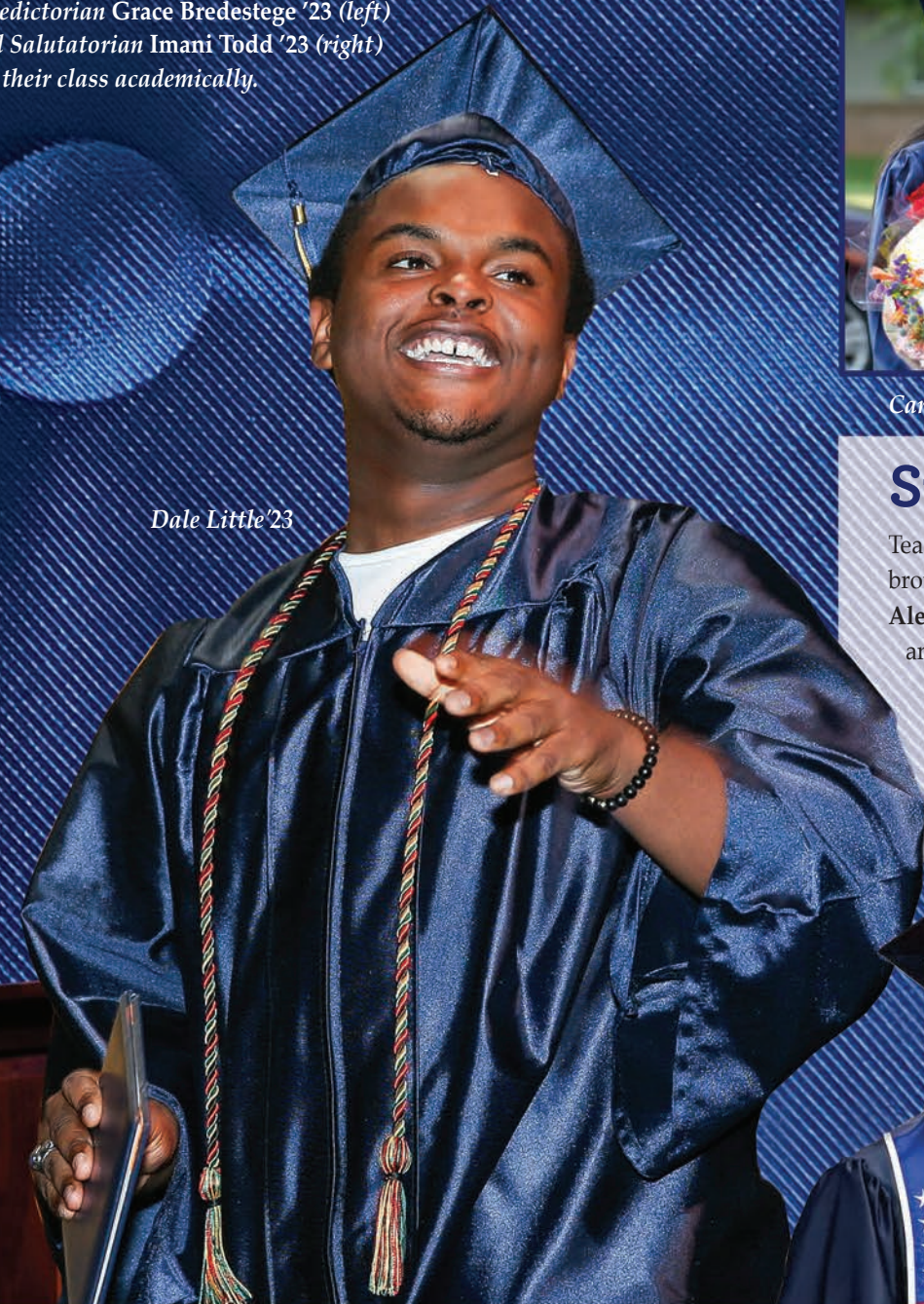
Carina Arreaga Soto '23 and Katherine Guzman-Ortiz '23

Surprise Reunion Adds Joy to Graduation

Teacher Tiana Gilbert traveled 2,000 miles to celebrate graduation with four of her former students. Her surprise appearance brought tears, joy and hugs from grads (left to right): Cristofer Roblero-Aguilar '23, Pamela Rodriguez-Velasquez '23, Alejandra Ortega Gomez '23, and Micah Belser '23. Tiana taught the four in seventh and eighth grades at Roberts Academy and she helped them with their DPCR applications. She moved to California as they moved on to DPCR, but she never forgot them. "They are an exceptional group of students who possess genuine thoughtfulness, curiosity and an ability to be authentically themselves," says Tiana. "The relationships I had with them and their families made graduation a milestone that I wanted to attend to honor and celebrate their achievements."



"Have ridiculous dreams that don't make sense to anyone," was one of the messages from commencement speaker Christopher Mester '16.



Dale Little '23



Celebrating our College Graduates

Amadou Diop '16

Bachelor of Science in Electromechanical Engineering Technology, Miami University

Joseph Jenkins '17

Master of Visual Arts, Columbus College of Art and Design

Joel King '17

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, University of Cincinnati

Destiny Chambers '18

Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Mount St. Joseph University

Heaven Evans '18

Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Thomas More University

Daniel Gilliland '18

Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Berea College

Diamond Headen '18

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Central State University

Michaele Townsend '18

Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Xavier University

Zanieyah Stevenson '18

Bachelor of Science in Education, Wright State University

Michael Williams '18

Master of Science in Management, University of Notre Dame

Heidi Cook '19

Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Miami University

Jada Harris '19

Bachelor of Science in Sport Leadership and Management, Miami University

Jarren Morrow '19

Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management, Central State University

Devon Steinriede '19

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Mount St. Joseph University



Destiny Chambers '18 & Devon Steinriede '19



Diamond Headen '18



Amadou Diop '16

Graduate Success Program Helps Future Engineer, Hundreds of Others

Amadou Diop '16 gave his mother a priceless Mother's Day gift this year; she watched him graduate from Miami University having persisted through two colleges over seven years to earn a bachelor's degree in electromechanical engineering technology. "My mom is very proud. I have a loving family and they have been with me every step of the way," says Amadou.

In addition to his family's support, Amadou had the guidance, encouragement and financial support of DPCR's Graduate Success Program. "Every time I reached out for help, DPCR was there. I can't put into words how helpful the Graduate Success Program has been for me."

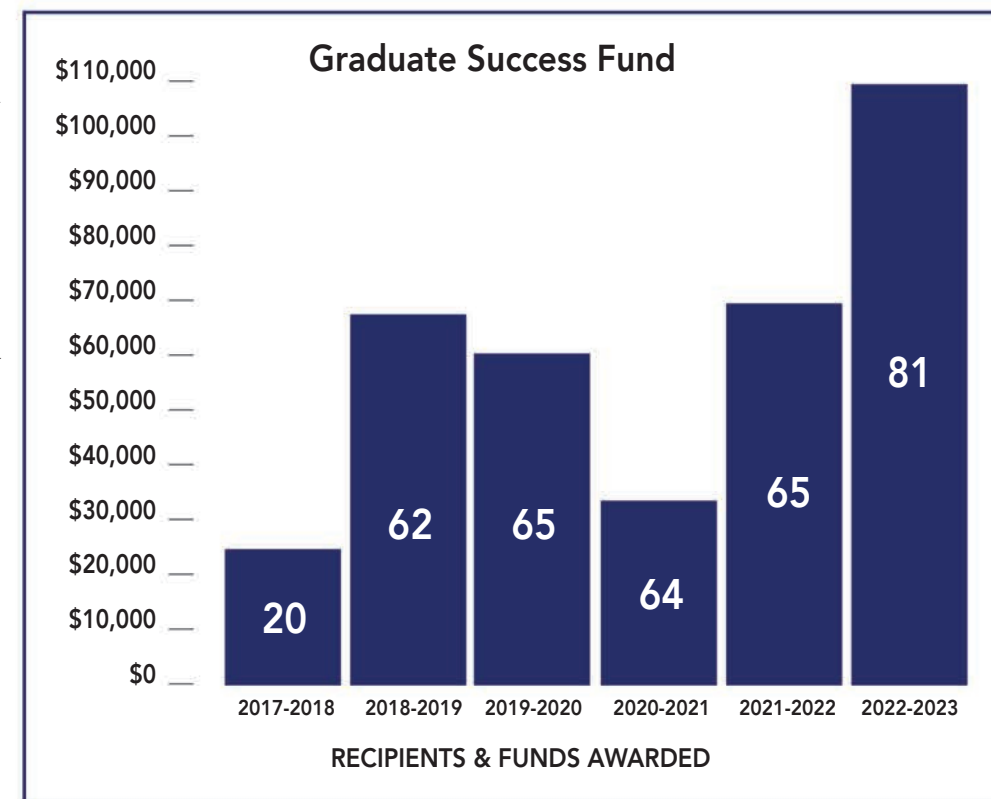
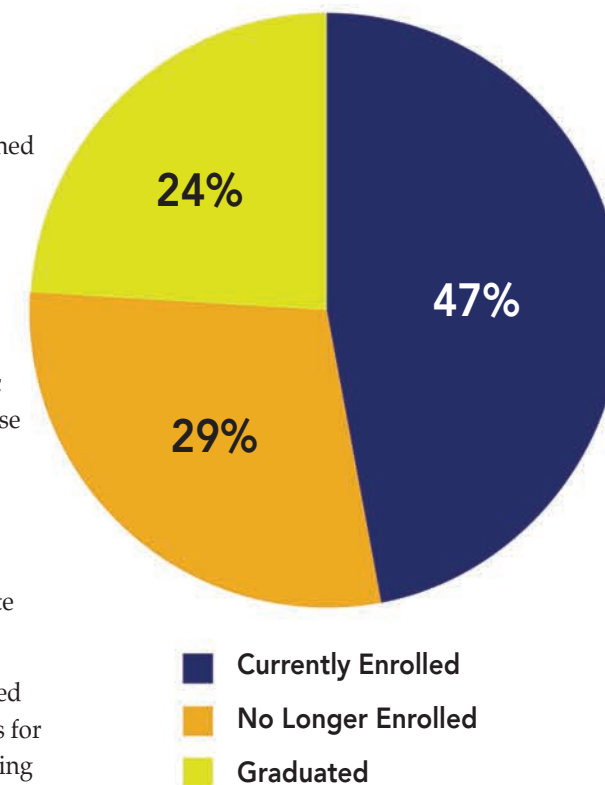
The Graduate Success Program remains the only one of its kind in Greater Cincinnati. It started in 2015 when DPCR's first graduates moved onto college. Its singular goal is to remove barriers to college completion for DPCR alumni. Director Brittany Ranz offers support and advice on class scheduling, academic questions and the financial aid process to college-enrolled alumni as well as those who have left college and want to re-enroll. Through the Graduate Success Program, which is funded through the Champions of Change initiative, alumni can apply for microgrants to cover financial gaps that would keep them from continuing in college. Amadou received several microgrants for tuition gaps; he also turned to Brittany for assistance with exploring and applying to graduate programs in engineering.

This past year alone over \$111,000 in grants was awarded to keep alumni enrolled in school, a 36 percent increase from the prior year. The majority used the grants for tuition gaps but others applied for funds for textbooks, food or housing. The rising cost of higher education and decreasing financial aid packages have contributed to the increased needs of alumni.

DPCR quietly launched a campaign in 2017 to endow the Graduate Success Fund. Already \$3.7 million has been pledged toward the \$6 million goal including a significant number of named scholarships through which donors endow a named scholarship to support college-enrolled grads. As the need for college financial aid increases, the Graduate Success Campaign is again ramping up to fully endow this fund which is so critical to our graduates' success. More than 70 percent of alumni who have received a microgrant have either graduated from college or remain enrolled.

For information on how to support the Graduate Success Campaign or endow a named scholarship, please contact Vice President of Advancement Sparkle Worley at 513.861.0600 or sparkle.worley@dpcr.net.

Microgrant Recipients from 2017-Present



Grad's Success Brings Corporate Work Study Program Full Circle

Partner/Alumni Profile



Corporate Partner **CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services** works hard to move medicine forward for those counting on it. DePaul Cristo Rey students are a part of this mission through their work-study placements; CTI has been a Corporate Partner since 2017. Alumni and students alike share the experience of working with this company.

Amanda Drew (pictured above) graduated from DPCR in 2017 and received a biology degree from **Gannon University**. She is now a research associate at CTI in charge of Sample Management. CTI is one of the 20 largest clinical research organizations (CROs) in the world. "I get to explore all the fields of CTI, rare diseases, and what

a CRO does," Amanda says. She is focusing on the biorepository lab which processes and stores human samples for clinical trials. "I am in charge of processing inbound samples and maintaining our units that hold the samples," she says. Amanda is thrilled to continue growing at CTI and improving the quality of life for those within and beyond the city limits of Cincinnati.

During her time at DPCR, Amanda learned the way companies operate through her CWSP placements. She had three different placements, giving her a wide array of experiences and skills. She also experienced field trips to local hospitals and received inspiration from her teachers which fueled her passion for healthcare. "It was super helpful that there were so many programs at DPCR that could lead to a bigger career and encourage me as a student," she says.

There were four students working at CTI this school year. CWSP Relationship Manager **Carol A. Jackson** says, "the students came to embrace interaction, as well as administrative and analytical skills." During the school year the students became acclimated to the office by organizing, restocking, answering calls, and delivering mail. They also got to practice their communication skills by conducting mock interviews with different departments.

The students were mentored by their supervisors and exposed to different areas of the company. The CTI environment captures for these students what life can look like working toward making the world a better place.

Seniors and Supervisors Celebrate

The Seniors and Supervisors Celebration Breakfast was one of the highlights of this year's Senior Week in April. Seniors invited their current and past Corporate Work Study supervisors to thank them for their mentoring, support and friendship. Pictured are **Mariam '23** (left) and **Alejandra '23** (right) with supervisor **Med Akinbi** from **Good Samaritan Trihealth Hospital**.



Bruin Life

A. & B. Bruins left their mark with community service this spring. A group of students and staff spent the first day of March's spring break serving at three local organizations (above). All freshmen engaged in service learning in April and May at three local organizations including **Matthew 25 Ministries** (pictured). Among their tasks was opening and assessing donated paint which will eventually be used to paint homes in South America.



C. The junior class toured monuments, museums, landmarks and colleges in a whirlwind, four-day spring break visit to Washington, D.C., in March.

The Sky's the Limit

Believe. Achieve. Become.

celebrate



A. Zyaan '24 was named the 2023 Comeback Kid for making a significant turnaround throughout the course of the school year. She was honored at the All-School Awards ceremony on May 18.



D. Teacher and Ninth Grade College Advisor Tina Ernst was nominated by faculty and staff as this year's Elizabeth Ann Seton Educator of the Year. One of her nominators noted that her classroom is a safe, constructive place for students to grow academically and as a young person trying to be the best version of themselves.



E. Two DPCR students were among the top four honorees in the high school creative writing contest sponsored by UC Clermont College's The East Fork: A Journal of the Arts. Among 30 entries from students at 10 different high schools, Yesica '24 (pictured) received first place for her entry, "Many Years to Live," poems written in Spanish and English. Alaisha '24 received an honorable mention for her piece, "Who Am I," an essay about her Latina identity.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE MOMENTS THAT MOVE YOU

C. The track & field team has run into the DPCR history book! During the spring season student-athletes set 19 school records and the team earned five first place medals, eight second place medals, and seven third place medals across varied events including individual and team races, hurdles, high jump, and long jump.



B. Alaisha '24 received DPCR's highest underclass honor, the Bruin Award, for exemplifying key Bruin characteristics: dedicated, professional, caring, and responsible. She was honored at the All-School Awards ceremony on May 18.



PERFECT ENDING



F. Campus Minister James Kozlowski received the 2023 Spirit of St. Vincent Award for embodying the virtues of the school's namesake saint. Also honored, posthumously, was Terri Shannon who had served as DPCR's Corporate Work Study business development associate until her unexpected death in February.

G. DPCR's chapter of the National Honor Society gained 15 new members during a May induction ceremony. The sophomore, junior and senior members had to demonstrate their excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character. NHS is the nation's premier organization that recognizes outstanding high school students.



BIG DREAMS ELEVATE YOUR GAME!



For the win