



President's Newsletter

The Road to 1717

December 12, 2018

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey Philadelphia,

At Cristo Rey, we celebrate many different faith traditions at this time of the year: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and more. We embrace the common theme that binds all of us together: peace on earth and goodwill for each other. In this spirit, I want to share with you a message from Cecily White, our Director of Graduate Support.

Sincerely,

John McConnell
Founder and President

Dear Cristo Rey Community,

As the Director of Graduate Support, I have the awesome pleasure of working with the Cristo Rey students after they have graduated from High School and are working their way through college. It's been an incredible two years of work and I consider myself lucky to be able to witness their journeys first hand.

When I reflect on my time here, there are many instances that both inspire and humble me, but one in particular has stood out recently – the story of Jordan Christian. Jordan was a member of our founding Class of 2016 and is now studying Engineering at Penn State Harrisburg. During his senior year, he was selected for one of ten book scholarships sponsored by members of the Pathways to College Committee of the Cristo Rey A.N.G.E.L.S – A Network of Giving Educational and Loving



Support. The A.N.G.E.L.S are a group of women who give of their time, talent, and treasure to support our students. This scholarship provided \$500 to Jordan for purchasing books and classroom materials for his first year in college.

One day, Jordan reached out to me, asking if I thought it would be possible for him to start a book scholarship of his own for one deserving high school senior in the Class of 2018. He said that he saved \$250 from his work on campus that semester and wanted to give it to a student who was planning to attend a Penn State campus the following year. Amazed, I immediately responded, letting him know that if it wasn't already possible, we would figure out how to make it possible! Together, Jordan and I worked to create an application for eligible students and coordinated that finished applications were sent to him to make a decision.



Jordan Christian ('16) with President John McConnell

At the Class of 2018's College Signing Day 2.0 event, we awarded Damyer Batties ('18) – now a student at Penn State Altoona – the first annual Jordan Christian Book Scholarship. I thanked Jordan for his generosity, and he simply replied, **"I remember how helpful my book scholarship was last year, and I want to be able to do that for someone."**

Wow. What a moment. It reminded me that oftentimes, when we do small acts of kindness or philanthropy, we do not always see the result. Here was a result of the Pathways to College Book Scholarship coming full circle, reaffirming the values of giving to others in a young person; and passing along the torch.

With this, I want to thank all of you who give your time, energy, funds, and love to our students. We are so grateful to have the foundation of kindness to grow and build the Cristo Rey Philadelphia community.

Sincerely,

Cecily White
Director of Graduate Support



In seven months, Cristo Rey Philadelphia will move to our new home at 1717 W. Allegheny Ave.

***We need your help* to raise the last \$1 million needed to build the campus. To support or learn more about the new school visit:**

www.theschoolthatworks.org/donate

Make A Gift

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

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