

# THE blarney stone

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY  
OF NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
AND MARIST ACADEMY

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Notre Dame's new science, art and technology wing opens with an August 17 blessing and ribbon-cutting.

## NEW ERA OPENS



**M**ore than 350 were on hand on August 17 when Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy hosted a special blessing and ribbon-cutting to officially open its stunning new science, art and technology wing. Dignitaries on hand for the event included school board members, Atlanta Auxiliary Bishop Joel Konzen, s.m., who conducted the blessing ceremony, and Pontiac Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman, who said she was delighted to be on campus for the event.

"It is a privilege to have this premier institution of learning right here in the City of Pontiac," Waterman said. "I congratulate all those who made the effort to make this beautiful facility a reality."

The ceremony opened with an address by NDPMA Head of School Andy Guest, who thanked those responsible for the hard work that went into getting the new wing completed in time for the fall semester. He also thanked the many benefactors who donated to the March On To Victory campaign that made the wing possible,

including Bill Kozyra, alum parent, school trustee, former board chair and honorary chair of the MOTV capital campaign, who was present at the Friday ceremony.

"It's an exciting day for the school and I wanted to be here today to see this wonderful academic addition come to fruition," Kozyra said as he toured the new building. "It's been a vision of Fr. Leon's (Olszamowski) for decades and I'm glad he is seeing it come to life today. The education that our young people will

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**Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student body a Catholic and internationally recognized college-preparatory experience of lasting value.**



ALUM TALKS ABOUT WHAT HER HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER MEANT TO HER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE AND TO A POSSIBLE FUTURE CAREER, PG. 2

# Albion achiever

Notre Dame alum talks about what her high school alma mater meant to her college experience and to a possible future career.

**A**ngela Adams, a 2015 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, is heading into her fourth year at Albion College in Albion, Mich. She also plays volleyball for the Britons, which, along with her time playing volleyball for the Irish, has helped, she said, make her college experience such a success so far.

“The entire student-athlete experience at Notre Dame was monumental in my transition to college and college athletics,” she said. “The discipline, leadership, time management, and mental and emotional strength I gained from my experience in the volleyball program at NDP is the foundation I rely on and build off of as a student-athlete at Albion.”

Adams said not only was her love for the game of volleyball sparked in high school, but her current competitive nature and drive came from her Irish teammates, the NDP coaching staff, and what she says was the endless positivity from the faculty at Notre Dame.

“All of this combined led me to my future at Albion,” she said. “And for that, I am forever grateful.”

We asked her about her past at Notre Dame Prep and her present at Albion, but we also wanted to hear about her future plans post-college. She was kind enough recently to spend a little time discussing all of this as well as whether or not her high school alma mater will continue to influence her future, a future that quite possibly might include a career in sports management.

## **ADAMS ON HOW NOTRE DAME PREP GOT HER READY FOR COLLEGE (AND LIFE):**

Academically, I felt extremely prepared going into my freshman year at Albion College. In some cases, the classes I took freshman year were easier than the classes I took in high school. I am thankful for the tough classes and rigorous workload that I experienced at NDP because without it, managing a full college class workload on top of volleyball practice, games, and travel would have been nearly an impossible task.

Finally, I believe that without NDP, I would not be the woman I am today. The people I shared that experience with became like family to me and it was the perfect stepping stone I needed to take me into college. I attribute a lot of my growth intellectually, spiritually and emotionally to Notre Dame. I am thankful to have such a wonderful alma mater.

## **ON HOW SHE ENDED UP PURSUING A BUSINESS-BASED COLLEGE EDUCATION:**

I am a rising senior at Albion College, majoring in economics and management and double minoring in business and communication studies. I began my time at Albion by becoming a member of the Carl A. Gerstacker Institute for Business and Management, which jump-started my transition into college and into the professional business world. The administrators of the institute are fabulous



Notre Dame graduate Angela Adams ('15) is planning for a career in sports management.

and continue to provide many opportunities for business students to learn about different fields and career options, grow as business professionals at networking events, and gain valuable work experience by completing internships for academic credit. After graduating from Notre Dame, I knew that I wanted to do something business-related. I had a passion for it and I was pretty good at it, too.

Over the past couple of years, I changed my major a few times; however, the changes were all in the business area. I wanted to gain a broader understanding of business as a whole through my classes and Albion does a great job of focusing in on each student's passions, goals, and aspirations, and strategically laying out their educational path to maximize academic growth.

In the spring of my junior year, I spent the semester off campus in Philadelphia through a program called The Philadelphia Center. This program is managed by Albion College and draws students from small liberal-arts schools in the Midwest and Pennsylvania and brings them to Philadelphia where they spend an entire semester living in and exploring the beautiful city of Philadelphia while taking two classes and completing a full-time internship — all for academic credit.

The classes are taught by the faculty at the center and adjunct professors from the city. For my internship, I worked for the Urban

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experience now here in a more enhanced way around the areas of science, art, technology and math is such an important part of their futures. I'm really proud and happy to be part of this process and I look forward to a lot of future professional scientists, engineers, artists, etc., coming from this wonderful facility."

**ARTS AND SCIENCES**

The new facility, which totals about 26,000 square feet, includes a one-story science, technology and arts wing that has been added to the shared middle division and upper division building. The building houses science laboratory facilities, collaborative learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a specially designed greenhouse, and a fine arts studio.

The new fine arts studio is dedicated primarily to the visual arts and provides a setting that has been designed to encourage and foster the talent and imagination of Notre Dame students. Natural lighting, abundant wall and floor space, proper worktables, ample shelving and storage, a kiln room and more provide a setting



Konzen blesses each room in the wing with the assistance of Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m.

that will help Notre Dame's aspiring young student-artists flourish. The space also includes a modern gallery to exhibit student artwork.

The new science labs have been designed to promote inquiry-based learning through design and functionality, according to the school. Work areas in the labs will accommodate small group collaboration and technology will be incorporated into the teacher demonstration station.



Atlanta Auxiliary Bishop Joel Konzen, s.m., welcomed those in attendance before conducting the blessing ceremony.

Counters and chairs have been designed with students in mind and a prep room conveniently situated between each of the two science labs provides a safe and secure environment for the storage of equipment and any potentially hazardous chemicals that may be used in the new wing.

History, too!

Matt DeAngelis, who is a junior at Notre Dame, has at least one class in the new wing, IB History, which is taught by longtime NDPMA teacher, Dave Osiecki.

"I'm really looking forward to increasing my knowledge of European history in Mr. Osiecki's new IB History classroom," said DeAngelis, who was at the event.

"And I'm looking to grow as a better overall student with all of the collaborative spaces in this new building."

Fellow junior Evan Wells also looks forward to the innovative new space.

"I think the new wing is very collaborative," he said. "It invites conversation and encourages communication between students and teachers, which is a good thing."

**OLD SCHOOL, NEW SCHOOL**

A number of attendees at the blessing had a special appreciation for the continued growth of Notre Dame and its Marist roots. Jim Berch, who is a 1959 alum of Notre Dame in Harper Woods, said he was looking forward to seeing the new building.

"The word that comes to mind is 'fantastic,'" said Berch, who also taught at Harper Woods Notre Dame. "I talked with a couple of students here earlier and one, in fact, is going to have four classes in this new wing. I told them to make sure they take advantage of all this. It's got all



More than 350 were on hand August 17 for the opening of Notre Dame's new wing.

the latest technology — quite a far cry from when I attended and taught at ND in Harper Woods."

Another former teacher from Harper Woods Notre Dame and Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Ken Parent, also was on hand

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for the blessing and ribbon-cutting. “I took a quick tour in June while the building was in construction, and I’ve seen the occasional drawing or concept sketch,” said Parent, who retired from teaching a few years ago. “But now it looks even better than the concept sketches.”

Another key component of the academic expansion is a 1,200 square-foot

### ‘BLOWN AWAY’

Fr. Stanley Ulman is a school trustee and pastor of St. Mary of the Hills Parish in Rochester Hills. He also heads up the Pontiac Area Vicariate. After the Aug. 17 blessing and ribbon-cutting, he, too, toured the new building and was especially impressed with not only the robotics lab, but he said the greenhouse and science labs hold a special importance for him.

Daniel Staniszewski, a math teacher at NDP and alum (2002), was effusive.

“Absolutely fantastic! Gorgeous,” he said. “They’ve done such a great job fitting all the pieces together.”

Kyle Lilek, who teaches English and the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge class, said the new wing was beautiful.

“On top of it all, it’s got exactly what teachers need to do their jobs well,” he said.

### PROGRAMMING PLUS

Katrina Palushaj, who teaches computer science at NDPMA, is looking forward to her new classroom.

“I think it’s one of the best facilities I’ve seen for students and teachers,” she said. “We can now collaborate as teachers and students in one facility. All the furniture is new and modern and we’ve got four 3D machines now in my class to allow for even more 3D printing. We’ll also be teaching AP Computer Science this year, a new class, so we’ll be getting more into programming. Now we’ll have not only the CAD kids here in the building, we’ll have the programming kids, too. I’m really excited! The kids are going to be amazed when they see this next week.”

What those “kids” will experience going forward also was not lost on Pontiac mayor Waterman.

“It’s a beautiful setting, a wonderful school and it’s a real privilege for your students to receive such an education at Notre Dame,” she said. “And I’m excited about the education this new building will bring for those students who have the honor to attend school here.” 🇺🇸



Friends, families, students and staff toured the new facility on August 17 after the blessing.

robotics lab and 850 square-foot adjoining classroom.

“Notre Dame’s robotics program has grown to encompass world-ranked programs at its lower, middle and upper divisions,” said Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., who is corporate president of NDPMA. “This new robotics center complements the space currently provided through our relationship with FIAT Chrysler, a sponsor of our robotics program since its inception.”

Olszamowski also said the robotics room provides dedicated education, construction, storage and training space; mobile work stations that allow for both computer-aided instruction and robot-building space as well as indoor and outdoor work space that is centrally located between the upper and middle divisions.

“It’s truly amazing,” he said. “I’ve been seeing the sketches and architectural drawings, but this is the first time I’m in here and I’m blown away. What an opportunity for the kids. They definitely will want to come back to school with these kinds of facilities. I was in one of the new science labs and I thought, wow, I would have loved to have a classroom like that when I was in high school. I believe the kids will want to do even better because they’ve been given such wonderful tools.”

Many teachers also commented on how much they appreciate teaching at a school with such innovative facilities.



NDPMA Head of School Andy Guest opened the ceremony by thanking those responsible for the hard work that went into getting the new wing completed in time for the fall semester. He also thanked the many benefactors who donated to the March On To Victory campaign, which made the new facility possible.

# Notre Dame announces board changes

**Two new trustees, an additional member of the board's strategic-planning committee, and a new vice chair are in place as Notre Dame begins its 2018-19 new school year.**

**N**otre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced in late August that its board has added two trustees and a new member of its strategic-planning committee. In addition, a new vice chair was appointed.

Mia Ambrose-Burbank, who is the mother of two alums and a 7th grader in Notre Dame's middle school, and John W. Henke, Jr., Ph.D., a 1958 alumnus of Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods, were named new trustees of NDPMA.

Noel Villajuan, J.D., who is the father of two students in Notre Dame's lower school, has accepted a position on the board's strategic planning committee.

Ann Stone, who is an alum parent and the mother of a 10th grader in Notre Dame's upper division, was named vice chair by the school's trustees, replacing board member Tim Knutson, whose term in that position had ended.

Notre Dame's board chair Steve Pangori is delighted with the latest changes.

"This school community has witnessed a tremendous amount of positive change over these past several years," he said. "With such an impressive group of trustees now in place, we look forward to an even more exciting future for our school. Mia and John bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our board and Noel will be a definite asset to our strategic planning committee. I am also pleased that Ann Stone, one of Notre Dame's most tireless advocates, will be taking on an even greater responsibility on the board. I also want to thank Tim Knutson for serving as vice chair over the past several years and look forward to his continuing presence on the board."

Burbank comes to the Notre Dame board with more than 20 years of business, finance and entrepreneurial experience as president and cofounder of Vendor Managed Solutions Inc. (VMS365 Inc.), a leading technology-driven maintenance,

repair and operations (MRO) company based in Troy, Mich., providing total inventory and maintenance solutions to corporations across the country. Prior to VMS365 Inc., she served as a principal and cofounder at SDE Business Partnering (a joint venture with EDS/AT Kearney) focused on IT staffing and commodities with accounts in the automotive, manufacturing and educational markets. Before this, Burbank served in consulting and business development leadership roles with EDS and a Tier-1 automotive supplier. She holds a BA degree in finance



Mia Ambrose-Burbank

from the University of Detroit Mercy and has participated in the Executive MBA Program sponsored by the Tuck School at Dartmouth University.

Henke currently is president of Birmingham, Mich.-based Planning Perspectives, Inc., which specializes in studying and reporting on buyer and supplier relations in the automotive and 17 other industries. Henke also is a professor of marketing at Oakland University, Rochester, Mich., and a research fellow at the Center for Supply Chain Manage-



John W. Henke, Jr., Ph.D.

ment at Rutgers University. Previously, he served as an assistant professor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's School of Management; a visiting instructor at Oakland University's School of Economics and Management; and taught undergraduate courses in marketing, personal selling, and international marketing at Michigan State University's Department of Marketing and Transportation/College of Business. He holds a BS degree in physics from Eastern Michigan University; an MS degree in radiological physics

from Cornell University; an MBA from Michigan State University; and a PhD in marketing, also from MSU.

Villajuan is a financial advisor with Troy, Mich.-based LJPR Financial Advisors, a financial-advisor and wealth-management firm that specializes in retirement planning, investment management, estate planning and tax planning. In addition to LJPR, Villajuan has more than 12 years of financial services experience working




Noel Villajuan, J.D.

with companies such as Charles Schwab, Merrill Lynch, and Fidelity Investments. His post-secondary education includes a BA degree in English from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., and a law degree from Western Michigan University's Cooley Law School. Additionally, he is a Certified Financial Planner professional.

Stone has served as an NDPMA trustee since 2008 and board secretary since 2010. She brings more than 10 years of experience in business and the healthcare industry



Ann Stone

along with a total passion for the NDPMA mission and its community. Previously, Stone was a data analyst supervisor with Detroit-based The Wellness Plan, where she conducted data analysis to monitor employee performance, quality control and customer satisfaction and leveraged staff resources to help identify areas of opportunity for performance improvement. Prior to this, she was a contract administrator with Southfield, Mich.-based Arcadia Health Services, Inc., responsible for contract negotiations, contract management oversight and provider relations. She holds a BS degree in Health Services Management from the University of Detroit Mercy. 

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League of Philadelphia, a non-profit organization focused on social and economic empowerment for the underserved communities in Philadelphia. I worked closely with the chief financial officer as a financial associate for the organization. It truly was a one-of-a-kind experience!

### ON WHAT SHE DID THIS SUMMER:

This summer, I worked at the Flagstar Bank headquarters in Troy, Mich. I was a business analyst intern on the Mortgage Delivery Services team in the information technology department. I worked closely with the chief information officer as well as the business relationship managers. Although drastically different from what I was doing in Philly, I was excited to be learning new skills outside of my financial services background and knowledge base. I hope to return to campus after completing this second academic internship with an even clearer vision of my future after college.

### ON HER EXTRACURRICULARS AT ALBION:

On top of my academics, I am an active member of the Albion College volleyball team. This upcoming fall will be my final season. In addition, I am one of the student athletic advisory committee representatives for the volleyball team and I work closely with other representatives from all the other athletic teams to coordinate volunteer hours and sports clinics. Furthermore, I am a member of the Phi chapter of Alpha Xi Delta on campus. As a sorority, we are actively involved in raising awareness for autism by fundraising for our philanthropic organization, Autism Speaks. Finally, I am a member of the student marketing committee, which works closely with the marketing and communication departments on campus and assists in promoting Albion College to prospective students and alumni.

### ON BEING A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL FOR OTHER STUDENT-ATHLETES:

After graduation, I want to pursue a master's degree in sports administration and eventually work my way up to being a senior women's administrator (SWA) on a college campus. As I reflected on my experience in Indianapolis as well as my career in athletics, both at Notre Dame and Albion, I determined that my "why" is that I truly want to be that positive role-model to women and student-athletes just as the many athletic administrators I have experienced in my career were for me. From Coach Wroubel, Mrs. Carlson, Ryan Minarik, JR, and Lenny at Notre Dame, to the coaching, athletic training, and athletic administration staff at Albion, I have been blessed with working with some amazing individuals in athletics who have guided me and shaped me into the woman I am today. I want to be that positive role model and mentor for someone in the future. That is my why.

### ON HOW HER EDUCATION AT NOTRE DAME PREP AND ALBION IS SHAPING HER FUTURE CAREER ASPIRATIONS:

I believe I am a logical and critical thinker, have the ability to strategi-

cally prioritize tasks and effectively manage my time, and I believe I'm mentally and emotionally tough. I also think I'm disciplined and work very well in a team setting. I have acquired all of these skills and strengths from the education I received at NDP and Albion and my continuous involvement in athletics. I am confident

that these skills will help me throughout my future career in athletics. I am so excited to see where life takes me after graduation and beyond.



In the spring of Adams' junior year, she spent a semester off campus in Philadelphia through a program called The Philadelphia Center, while taking classes and completing a full-time internship — all for academic credit.

### ON WHAT SHE MISSES ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL, INCLUDING HER TEACHERS AT NDP AND A VERY SPECIAL RETREAT:

Although it was probably the hardest class I took at NDP, I really do miss AP calculus with Mr. McCaskey. He was a phenomenal teacher for me. He always knew how to simplify the material in a way that was easy for me to understand. Photography with Mr. Devine was also one of my favorites! He introduced me to photography and I was immediately hooked. It is my creative outlet and I love it. I am thankful for him for being such a great teacher and mentor. Also, photography class is where I met one of my best friends to this day, Olivia Juliani.

One of my favorite highlights from Notre Dame is my time in the athletic department as a part of the Irish volleyball program. Although winning states my junior

year was an experience I'll never forget, the friendships I made along the way with my teammates are one of the best takeaways from Notre Dame. I am still very close with the girls I played with and I'm forever grateful to the program for bringing us all together. Those girls have become like family to me. We are almost four years out and we still get together on breaks and holidays. It makes my heart happy that I met such a wonderful group of women. By far, my favorite memory!

Lastly, I really miss Kairos. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am so thankful that I got to do it at ND. For me, Kairos helped me grow in my faith and spirituality in ways that I did not know were possible. My eyes were opened to the immense love of God. Kairos really puts life into perspective. I wish that everyone could experience Kairos first-hand. A big thank you to NDP faculty and student leaders for making that experience happen.

### ON REMEMBERING AND GIVING BACK TO HER HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER:

I believe that staying in touch and giving back to any organization that I was once a part of is extremely important. I will forever be proud to have attended such a wonderful school. It has provided me with countless memories and close relationships as well as an unparalleled education. I believe that it is my honor to give back in any way that I can throughout my life. I appreciate everyone and everything about NDP. In the future I will continue to give back in the ways that I can because I want the current and future students and families at NDP to have what I had: the best and most well-rounded high school experience possible. 🙏❤️

## Number one again

Notre Dame Preparatory School was named the top Catholic high school in Michigan for 2019, marking the third time in four years the school has earned the ranking according to Niche, a national organization that annually ranks colleges and K-12 schools across the country.

Niche previously ranked NDP the state's #1 Catholic high school in 2016 and 2018.

Niche also rated Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy among the top five private K-12 schools in the state, religious or non-religious, on a list that included Cranbrook, Detroit Country Day and University Liggett.

According to Niche, the 2019 Best Catholic High Schools ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall experience at a Catholic high school. The ranking takes into account key factors such as the strength of academics, school culture and diversity, as well as student and parent reviews, in an attempt to measure the overall excellence of the school.

Other factors used in the ranking include average ACT/SAT composite scores; "college scores," which means the average score of colleges that students are most interested in or go on to attend based on Niche's best overall college rankings; four-year matriculation rates, which are the percentages of seniors who go on to four-year colleges; and student-teacher ratios.

Parent and student surveys of opinions on the overall experience at each school also are part of the rating process. Much of the data and statistics are obtained by the U.S. Department of Education, says Niche. 🇺🇸



## Positively perfect



Kathryn Kennedy, a senior at Notre Dame Preparatory School, has scored a perfect 36 on her ACT — the highest score available — and is now the ninth Notre Dame student since 2009 to achieve such perfection.

According to test administrator ACT, Inc., only 0.136%, or 2,760 out of 2,030,038 test takers in the United States earned a perfect ACT score, an accomplishment so exceptional that even Bill Gates fell 10 points shy of

that number when he was in high school.

As the leading college admissions test, the ACT measures what students learn in high school to determine their academic readiness for college with tests covering four skill areas: English, math, reading and science reasoning. Each area is scored on its own scale of 1 to 36. A student's composite test score is the average of those parts. The ACT is accepted by all major colleges and universities. Last year, the state average was 24.1 and nationally, it was 20.0.

"Your achievement on the ACT is significant and rare," said Marten Roorda, ACT chief executive officer, in a letter congratulating Kennedy on the achievement. "While test scores are just one of multiple criteria that most colleges consider when making admission decisions, your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals."

In March of this year, Kennedy's classmate, Christopher VanDieren, also received notice that he had scored a perfect 36 on his ACT. In 2016, then-junior Ryan Flaherty, currently attending Hillsdale College, earned a perfect 36 on the ACT. In 2014, Michael Soisson, who went on to the University of Notre Dame, received a perfect 36 on the ACT.

In 2012, Notre Dame's Eric LaRose and Joe Soisson earned a perfect 36 on their ACT tests. In 2011, Matt Siatczynski scored a 36. In 2010, Jon Sheperd scored a 36, and Ryan McIntosh, who graduated from NDP in 2009, also achieved a 36 on his ACT. 🇺🇸

## NDPMA names development veteran to lead school advancement activities

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy has named Mark Roberts to the newly created position of vice president for institutional advancement, effective August 20, 2018. The announcement was made by NDPMA Head of School Andy Guest, who said Roberts' responsibilities include oversight of Notre Dame's admissions, alumni relations, fundraising and marketing activities, now combined into one department.



Guest also said that Roberts brings a wealth of experience to NDPMA.

"Mark has the tools to lead our advancement team into the future," he said. "He has nearly 20 years of professional advancement experience and even though our current campaigns that led to two new athletic fields and a new science, arts and technology addition are nearly complete, there are many more expansion plans ahead for us. I have every confidence that Mark can help strengthen an already very successful advancement department for an exciting future."

Roberts comes to NDPMA from the Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation, based in Detroit, where he was senior director, resource development. Prior to this, he was senior director of development from 2012 to 2016 at Wayne State University's College of Engineering where among other major development initiatives, he planned and executed a \$40-million capital campaign, and introduced a leadership annual giving society.

Before Wayne State University, Roberts served in development positions of increasing responsibilities at the University of Michigan, The Catholic University of America, George Washington University, both in Washington, DC, and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., where he was the director of annual giving.

He graduated from The College of William and Mary in Virginia

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with a BA degree and also holds a master’s degree in business administration from Wayne State University.

Roberts said he is looking forward to working within the school community. “Everywhere you look,” he said, “you see example after example of our Mother Mary’s gentle hand in shaping this remarkable community.”

## School gets grant for diversity initiative

NDPMA has received a grant from package-shipping giant UPS for its innovative diversity initiative, Stepping Stones.

The \$5,000 grant, which comes from The UPS Foundation, was made upon the recommendation of Renee Roberts, who is HR manager for the Great Lakes District of United Parcel Service.

Notre Dame’s Stepping Stones program is a six-week summer intensive “camp” followed by five mid-year check-in sessions designed to increase academic readiness and private school eligibility for rising 8th and 9th graders from the Pontiac community.

Kala Parker, who is NDPMA’s dean of diversity and associate dean of admissions, said the program helps to prepare students for the academic rigor and pace of top private schools in the area, including Notre Dame Preparatory School.

“Stepping Stones will help reduce the loss of academic information and skills over the summer — a risk that typically increases in urban communities — and helps fill gaps in core subject foundational knowledge, which, in turn, will lead to admission to and success in strong academic high school programs like NDP’s,” she said.

## Pontiac plaudits

Notre Dame Prep alums Daniel Castro (‘15) and Justin Kreger (‘17) were honored this summer at a ceremony recognizing those in the Pontiac Promise Zone college scholarship program who earned the highest grade point average during their respective years in the program.

The Pontiac Promise Zone provides financial assistance to students who live and attend school within the Pontiac School District to attend any college, university or trade school in Michigan. Students may receive up to \$3,000 each year for up to four (4) years. Students who live in Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Lake Orion, Rochester, Lake Angelus, Waterford and Sylvan Lake, and attend school within the Pontiac School District are eligible for assistance.

Students from the following schools are eligible to apply for the scholarship: Arts and Technology Academy of Pontiac, Auburn Hills Christian, Baldwin Rd. Church Academy, Heritage Christian School, International Technology Academy, Life Skills Center of Pontiac, Notre Dame Preparatory School, Oakland Christian, Pontiac Academy for Excellence and Pontiac High School.

Currently, Castro attends the University of Michigan and Kreger attends Oakland University.



Justin Kreger, left, graduated from ND Prep in 2017 and Daniel Castro graduated in 2015. Kreger attends Oakland University and Castro is at the University of Michigan.