

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **Cristo Rey Atlanta *Rey of Hope* Gala Exceeds \$1M Endowment Goal**

*Donors secure the future of the school*

March 3, 2020 – Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School hosted the Rey of Hope Gala on February 22. Donors and supporters came together to raise over \$1,100,000 for the endowment fund. The goal was set by school president, Bill Garrett, who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mr. Garrett set this high bar for the Cristo Rey Atlanta community in order to ensure the success and future of the school.



Sean Garrett, Camille Naughton, Scott Kingsfield, Bill Garrett

Over 450 guests attended the event in the Fink Family Gymnasium, which was transformed into a cosmopolitan city theme, reminding guests that Atlanta’s skyline has been forever changed by Cristo Rey Atlanta. Attendees enjoyed food selections from Carole Parks Catering and sipped on libations from American Spirit Whiskey and Gate City Brewery. A highlight of the evening was the arrival of members of the senior class who made an enthusiastic entrance and were greeted with a standing ovation.

Dave Fitzgerald, founder and CEO of Fitzco, welcomed guests. He shared stories of student successes that are a result of the impact of Cristo Rey Atlanta supporters. “Cristo Rey Atlanta has experienced 100% college acceptance for each of its three graduating classes. This year, the third senior class to graduate has eight Questbridge scholars, two Posse scholars, two Evans scholars, five students accepted to Notre Dame, eight students accepted to Georgia Tech, and the very first Ivy League school acceptance to Cornell.”



Mary and Bob Fink, Gift of Hope Foundation

During the night, key supporters in the Cristo Rey community were honored. Bill Garrett was presented with the Rey of Light award and was recognized for his years of service to the school. Accepting his

award, Garrett remarked, "It has been a privilege for me to work with the dedicated faculty, staff and volunteers at Cristo Rey Atlanta. Our students deserve nothing less than the best!"

Mary and Bob Fink, for whom the gym is named, were honored for their extraordinary and timely contributions. Jenny and Mike Messner were recognized for their dedicated support of the technology program, Corporate Work Study Program and summer travel programs. Janet and Jim Cumming were honored for their outstanding donation of the school building in 2017.

The live and silent auctions raised over \$100,000. The paddle raise resulted in \$134,000 toward the Bill Garrett Endowed Scholarship in loving memory of his mother, Elizabeth D. Garrett. Presenting sponsors at the \$100,000 level included Jim Childs, Kim & Scott Kingfield, the Speedwell Foundation, and EY. With more key sponsorships from dedicated supporters and corporate partners as well host committee support, the evening netted over \$1,100,000 for the endowment.

#### About Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School

Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School is a Catholic learning community that educates young people of limited economic means, of any faith or creed, to become men and women for and with others. Through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, integrated with a relevant work study experience, students graduate prepared for college and life.

#### About the Cristo Rey Network

The Cristo Rey Network provides a quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to young people who live in urban communities with limited educational options. Our mission is clear – college success for Cristo Rey Network students. Member schools utilize a rigorous academic model, supported with effective instruction, to prepare students with a broad range of academic abilities for college. Cristo Rey Network schools employ an innovative Corporate Work Study Program that provides students with real world work experiences. Every student works five full days a month to fund the majority of his or her education, gain job experience, grow in self-confidence, and realize the relevance of his or her education. Students work at law firms, banks, hospitals, universities, and other professional Corporate Partners.

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