



July 22, 2025

Dear Detroit Cristo Rey High School Community:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we wish to provide you information on the upcoming search for the next President/CEO of Detroit Cristo Rey High School.

As fiduciaries of the mission, the appointment of a President/CEO is one of the Board of Trustees' most important decisions. To that end, the board has decided to engage Lester Consulting Group, Inc. (LCG) to manage a national search process on behalf of Detroit Cristo Rey. The board and LCG are committed to a process that seeks a President/CEO who will embrace our school's mission and culture. LCG has worked with other Cristo Rey schools, and they understand Catholic education, nonprofit leadership, and how effective, mission-driven leaders can be found in every sector, including the corporate world.

Lorcan Barnes, LCG President, will facilitate the search process. He has great familiarity with Catholic secondary education, having served as President/CEO of Catholic high schools for twenty-four years. This summer, he will be gathering important data from our constituents through surveys and interviews that will include prioritization of the qualities and experiences we seek in our next President/CEO. While the responsibility to select the President/CEO belongs to the Board of Trustees, the voice of the Detroit Cristo Rey community is important and will inform our discernment and decision.

In addition to LCG's facilitation of the search process, the Board of Trustees has established a Search Committee to help identify and screen candidates. The Search Committee includes the following trustees: Fr. John Huber CSB, Mary Messana (Search Committee Chair), Sr. Lenore Pochelski IHM, and Steve Walker. Additional members of the Search Committee are Lori Kuhn, former DCR CFO and consultant with Financial One Accounting, Kelby Woodard, CEO of the Cristo Rey Network, and Osmara Zarate, a DCR graduate and employee of the Ideal Group. We are grateful that these trusted members and advocates of our school community have agreed to embrace this important responsibility.

The search process is designed to name a new President/CEO in early January with the further expectation that she or he will assume leadership soon thereafter. We will provide the school community with periodic updates on the search process over the next few months on the school's website.

Any leadership change within a community can be the source of great hope and excitement, as well as anxiety. Our efforts will be guided by our school's mission to deliver a career-focused, college preparatory education for deserving students with limited economic resources. Please keep this search and our efforts in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Nuño-Whelan  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Interim President/CEO

Mary Messana  
Chair, President Search Committee  
Member, Board of Trustees