



Alumna Speaker Jeremiah Andre '15
"Charting Our Course Together" Gala
October 23, 2025

Good evening, everyone.

My name is Jeremiah Andre and I am a proud 2015 graduate of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. I attended both St. Raphael and St. Augustine campuses. When I think back to my time at the school, one image always comes to mind: a bus.

Holding the steering wheel of the bus were my teachers. Two that stand out in particular were Sister Lisa, who taught Science, and Mrs. Donnelly, who taught 8th grade. They weren't just great teachers – they genuinely cared and pushed me to be better – not just in class, but as a person. They really left a mark on me. I remember winning "The Most Christian Award" in middle school, and the encouragement I received at CAB allowed me to do that and has carried me throughout my life.

The teachers drove me academically too, and made my transition into high school easy. I will never forget walking into my math class freshman year at Kolbe and realizing we were going over problems I could do in my sleep – unlike many of my classmates who came from the area public schools, and who struggled and were behind.

Also holding the steering wheel of the bus were my parents. They encouraged me and taught me to treat people with respect, and were super hardworking individuals who did anything possible to ensure I went into school with a clean uniform every day and had the tools I needed to succeed.

Also in my image of the bus were my extended family. Everyday after school, my sister Lourdemia and I would cram into my uncle's car with five of my cousins to go home together. People used to joke that the "Bien-Aime bus" was here to get us. Those rides are some of my most favorite memories to this day – packed with laughter, chaos and lots of passengers! School for me was a family affair — literally.

As for my 5 cousins, they all went on to good colleges and are either just about to graduate or have already received their BA's. One cousin is applying to physical therapy programs for next year, and my sister Lourdemia – who is here with me tonight – is a freshman at UConn studying Engineering. And I still have 4 extended family members at CAB today – they are the next generation.

As for me, I have stepped off my original vision of a bus and am at another stop in my journey. After graduating Kolbe with a 3.8 GPA, I spent two successful years at Fairfield University before transferring, due to costs, to the University of Bridgeport.

I graduated with a Bachelors in Health Science in 2023 and, today, am in my final year of a two-year Masters in Science at the University of Hartford.

I am specializing in Prosthetics and Orthotics because it's a field where I get to combine science, creativity, and compassion to help people live fuller lives. I realize the foundation for all of this — the confidence, the drive, the sense of community, even the love of science — was planted back in those years at CAB.

But this bus is nothing without all of you – you are the engine that keeps the bus going and gives people like me the chance to go to a school that isn't just about learning math or writing essays but about family, mentorship and opportunities that help us each become who we were meant to be. So thank you. With your help, this bus is destined to ride smoothly into a bright future we can envision and build together.