



BRITTANY IRWIN-SORRENTINO, *paying it forward*

Brittany Irwin-Sorrentino is a young woman with a solid passion for helping others. With an impressive resume within the public relations, event-planning and fundraising sector, Brittany finds herself meeting the needs of others as she networks to assist those who are most in need. With a B.S. from California State University Northridge in Family Consumer Services, and an M.A. from Pepperdine University in Clinical Psychology, Brittany currently serves at ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena as a Donor Relations Manager.

As a skilled professional in the nonprofit sector, Brittany attributes her care for others and her educational journey to the Sisters of Notre Dame. A 2003 graduate of Notre Dame Academy, Brittany recalls her first impression of the SNDs as “constant in spirituality and positive growth for all of us within the NDA community.”

With this positive reinforcement from the SNDs, Brittany experienced the spiritual gifts of the sisters’ core values. She fondly remembers this impact, especially in her senior World Religions class taught by the late Sr. Carlann Paganelli.

When speaking personally of her experience with the SNDs, Brittany recalls a life-changing instance when the sisters openly showed their compassion for her family. She vividly remembers the situation. As a junior at NDA, tuition became a financial burden for her

parents. The only alternative was for her to transfer to the local public school. Brittany fondly remembers, “The day I was to start classes at the public school, Sr. Marie Paul Grech called my parents, and offered to provide tuition assistance for me for the remainder of the academic school year.”

Brittany and her family were taken aback by the generosity of the NDA community and Sr. Marie Paul’s dedication--ensuring special care for each student’s needs. Brittany attributes her love of education and her career path to Sr. Marie Paul, as she embraces her mission and purpose to make opportunities possible for students like herself.

When asked about sharing the sisters’ spirit and mission, Brittany states, “If someone did not know the SNDs, I would expand on their example of dedication to young women and education, but most importantly, their commitment to sharing Christ’s love as they give hope to others.”

For Brittany the notion of “paying it forward” has come full circle, as she cherishes her responsibilities at ArtCenter College of Design, seeking donors to underwrite student scholarships. As she moves forward with her career, she will always hold a sense of gratitude for her experience with the SNDs, and be a steward of their example to those she meets along life’s journey.