

Southland College Prep Juniors Have Memorable Moments at University of Notre Dame



Notre Dame, IN- September 27, 2013-- Donald Bishop, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Enrollment, speaks with Southland College Prep students about University of Notre Dame curricula and campus life. Attorney Robert Hall, ('85 ND Business School) who arranged the visit is standing in background. (Posted By richard barry, Community Contributor)

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[Notre Dame](#), Ind. – September 27, 2013 – On a dull grey day marked by sheets of torrential rain and punctuated with thunder claps and lightning strikes, 107 Southland College Prep Charter High School juniors and their faculty chaperones absorbed the bright challenges and opportunities that a world class university could offer them.

During a recent visit to the University of Notre Dame's campus arranged by Southland's attorney and Notre Dame alumnus, Robert Hall, ('85, Bachelor of Business Administration and Philosophy) the Southland group captured some memorable Kodak moments and gained insight into what it takes to be admitted and earn an undergraduate degree from a top ranked university that enjoys an international reputation for its academic rigor and athletic achievements.

"I was delighted to be with the Junior Class of Southland College Prep Charter High School in what I believe was each student's first experience at the University of Notre Dame," said Hall.

"There really is something quite magical about Notre Dame," he said.

"I so enjoyed sharing the students' excitement as they were immersed in the campus with its many beautiful images, --the Golden Dome, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and the [Fighting Irish](#)'s football stadium where the group toured the press box high atop the field and sat where legions of print and broadcast media from around the U.S. and abroad cover and record the games.

"They also inspected the team's locker room and viewed an impressive display of national football championship rings earned by Notre Dame athletes," Hall said.

A special moment was when each Southland visitor had an opportunity to touch the "Play Like A Champion" sign that generations of ND players have tagged when leaving the locker room en route to the gridiron on game days.

"The highlight of the visit for me was the hour that Southland's students were able to spend with Donald Bishop, Notre Dame's Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Enrollment, who spoke with our students about the college experience, the admission process and criteria, and issues that the students should consider as they determine which colleges they will attend," Hall explained.

The trip was a first for many Southland students, who each took away something different from their visit.

"It was an honor to be on the campus of a school so rich in tradition," said Coretta Franklin.

"I was thrilled to have the opportunity to touch the 'Play Like a Champion Today' sign and I liked the fact that the student body seemed to be very diverse," Joshua Buford added.

“Visiting Notre Dame’s campus was a wonderful opportunity for our students. Hopefully, the experience has prompted them to focus on higher education and their own future. It’s most encouraging that a good many of Southland’s students have in their sights the University of Notre Dame, a top-ranked institution that has earned an international reputation and is less than 100 miles from our own campus,” said Dr. Blondean Davis, Southland CEO.

The Notre Dame trip was one of several college and university campus tours of Chicago area and Midwest schools that Ronald Anderson, Southland College Prep Charter High School’s College Counselor, has arranged this year. In addition, on the basis of grade point averages and test scores, several Southland students have been invited to other campuses by the schools themselves.

About Southland College Prep Charter High School

Southland College Prep opened in August 2010. It is the only public charter high school in Chicago’s suburbs. Southland’s total enrollment capacity, as set by the Illinois State Board of Education, is 500 students. The new school is designed to prepare all of its graduates for academic success in college.

Located at 4601 West Sauk Trail Road, Richton Park, on eight acres in a three-story, 85,000 square foot, state-of-the-art learning center, Southland has small class sizes, an extended nine- hour school day and a college prep curriculum that emphasizes foreign languages, math, science and the arts.

Southland’s students use 21st century classroom tools including an electronic portfolio of work and a blog for each subject area. Students engage in technology-based collaborative learning with other students, have access to video conferencing and technology assisted home-school communication to keep parents informed of progress.

Southland College Prep Charter High School selects students by public lottery who are graduates of an elementary school and who reside in Rich Township District 227 which

includes the communities of: Country Club Hills, Flossmoor, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Matteson, Olympia Fields, Park Forest, Richton Park and Tinley Park.