

Special Awards

At last week's Upper School Closing Ceremony, we honored many of our students for their academic and extracurricular excellence—and this morning, I have the privilege of announcing the four most prestigious student awards: the inaugural **King Constantine Medal**, **The Head of School Award**, the **Salutatorian**, and finally the **Valedictorian** of the Class of 2017.

Providence Day is proud to be a newly-minted member of Round Square International, a consortium of 180 schools across 50 countries and five continents. The Round Square **King Constantine Medal** is awarded annually to a student or staff/faculty member who embodies the six ideals of Round Square: Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service. The medal is presented to an individual who has done outstanding service work in the community, locally and abroad.

Our inaugural recipient is certainly outstanding in the classroom, but she has distinguished herself even more notably for her tenacity in defending

the rights, serving the needs, and hearing the voices of others. She is a long-time member of Sow Much Good, an organization that combats food deserts in Charlotte by growing and supplying fresh produce to those in need. A member of the Global Studies Student Advisory Board, she is also co-founder of “Building for Belize,” a very-successful fundraising effort for an impoverished elementary school that she visited on a Providence Day Service Learning trip last year. Finally, she is one of the driving forces behind Providence Day’s first Black Student Union, an affinity group that has already proven to be a welcome and important catalyst for discussions on race, culture, and society. The ideal combination of ability and action, I can think of no better inaugural recipient of the King Constantine Medal than **Adanna Eziri**.

The **Head of School Award** is presented at Commencement to the senior who best exemplifies the core values of Providence Day School: a passion for learning, a sense of social responsibility, and a commitment to personal integrity.

It is difficult to find an aspect of the Providence Day community where this young man has not excelled. He has rarely earned a grade lower than A+ in a curriculum populated with 9 AP classes in his Upper School career; he will earn the Global Studies diploma; he has been a leader in two significant Providence Day community service initiatives: Freedom School and Beyond Palabras, where he and his peers work with Spanish-speaking adults in the Charlotte area on their English skills. Here at school, he has been a four-year member of the Honor Council, and it is no exaggeration to say that he has been the cornerstone of the Providence Day Theater and vocal music programs since his middle school days. Finally, he has been a strong, clear, and persistent voice for all forms of diversity, both here at Providence Day and in the larger community. His college counselor considers him one of the most impactful students he has known in his career. I am pleased and proud to award the 2017 Head of School award to **David Conlin**.

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Salutatorian

The **Salutatorian** is the senior who has attended Providence Day since at least ninth grade with the second-highest cumulative GPA over the four Upper School years. He has earned a 4-year cumulative GPA of 4.64, and will attend Duke University in the fall. Congratulations to our Salutatorian, **David Conlin!**

Valedictorian

The **Valedictorian** is the senior who has attended Providence Day since at least ninth grade with the highest cumulative GPA over the four Upper School years. This young woman has earned this award thanks to her 4.66 GPA, and she will attend Brown University in the Fall. Congratulations to the Valedictorian of the Providence Day Class of 2017, **Victoria Xu!** (student delivers his/her address)