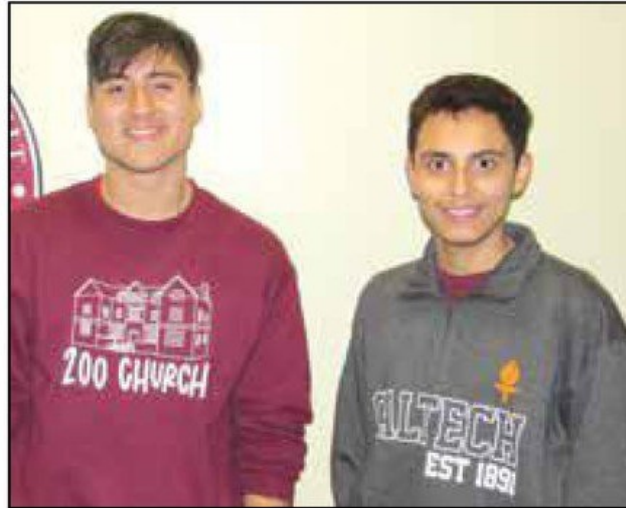


Nativity Jesuit Academy Graduate Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

Nativity Jesuit Academy graduate and current Marquette University High School student Carlos Ayala has been awarded the prestigious QuestBridge Scholarship, worth more than \$200,000 over his four years in college, to study astrophysics at the California Institute of Technology.

Ayala was one of 1,127 students out of 14,926 applicants to receive the scholarship. He is one of 11 students from Wisconsin to be offered the scholarship. QuestBridge aims to provide opportunities for the nation's brightest students from low-income backgrounds. The scholarship covers all expenses, including tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and travel expenses during school breaks.

"The QuestBridge Scholarship is the fulfillment of the American Dream," Ayala said. "It represents the progress our society has achieved in making the realization of one's dreams possible for all people, regardless of their



▲ Robin Rico-Sotelo (left) and Carlos Ayala (right). (Submitted photo)

backgrounds. For me, the scholarship encompasses the hard work and aspirations of myself, my community and my family. With the education I will now have access to, I may break barriers that have previously confined me and people of low socioeconomic backgrounds, granting me the ability to make contributions towards the greater good of society."

This will be the second consecutive year a graduate of Nativity will

matriculate at a prestigious university as a QuestBridge Scholar. Last year, Robin Rico-Sotelo received an offer to attend Wesleyan University as the first QuestBridge Scholar in the school's history.

Sue Smith, Nativity's president, recognizes the connection between the strong academic outcomes of the school and the success of its alumni. "We believe there is a direct throughline between the quality education Nativity provides and the positive outcomes our graduates experience after they leave Nativity," Smith said. "It is inspiring to see them grow into incredible students and people throughout their time in high school and beyond."

Ayala will be one of six QuestBridge scholars in Caltech's class of 2024. He will continue a legacy of college success by Nativity Jesuit Academy graduates. One hundred percent of the school's alumni graduate from high school and are accepted into college.