



Contact: Gus Ramirez, St. Augustine Preparatory Board Chairman
Gus.Ramirez@huscointl.com

Following Two Successful Years of Continuous Growth and Improvement, St. Augustine Preparatory Academy Announces Leadership Transition

June 21, 2019 – Milwaukee – St. Augustine Preparatory Academy (Aug Prep) announced today that after three transformative years as superintendent, Dr. Alfonso Carmona has decided to return to Chicago in order to be closer to family. His last day will be June 30.

The board of directors of Aug Prep has appointed a national search firm with proven success to identify the next leader of Aug Prep. Given the exciting future ahead and the exceptional team leading the school, the role has been recast from superintendent to school president, with the goal of Aug Prep's next leader assuming broader leadership responsibilities.

"Dr. Carmona will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of all who worked to build Aug Prep into what it is today," said Gus Ramirez, founder of St. Augustine Preparatory Academy. "There is no doubt he was the right leader at the right time, playing a critical role in the construction of our school, the recruitment of our outstanding leaders, teachers and staff, and establishing a holistic design and student-centered culture of learning, faith and personal development. Today, Aug Prep is performing at exceptional levels, and 95 percent of our students and 90 percent of our staff will return next year. We are grateful for Dr. Carmona's many contributions and wish him and his family all the best as they return to Chicago."

Abby Andrietsch, a noted educational leader and advocate, has agreed to serve as interim president of Aug Prep. Most recently, Ms. Andrietsch served as co-founder and executive director of Schools That Can Milwaukee. While there, she worked with more than 250 school leaders from public, charter and private schools to lead transformation of K-12 education in Milwaukee. Ms. Andrietsch led the merger of Schools that Can Milwaukee with Partners Advancing Values in Education (PAVE) in the spring of 2018 before stepping away to spend more time with her family. Ms. Andrietsch has a master's degree in education and an MBA from Stanford University, and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. She serves on the board of trustees and is chair for academic excellence for Alverno College and also serves on the board of directors of Aug Prep and Husco International.

"I am honored to serve our students, families and staff as we enter this next phase of growth and impact at Aug Prep," said Ms. Andrietsch. "In just two years, our student population has more than doubled from 560 students to over 1,300 registered for next year. Thanks to our tremendous academic and operational leadership, Aug Prep is on pace to achieve its full capacity by the 2020-21 school year and will continue to strive to achieve the aggressive academic benchmarks we have for our scholars."

-more-



During the 2018-19 school year, Aug Prep’s middle school students grew 91 percent faster than the average national academic growth, and the elementary school students grew 24 percent faster than their peers across the country in both reading and math.

High school students continue to perform at exceptional levels as well, with 10th grade students improving composite ACT scores by 4.2 points in two years compared to a national average of two points. Additionally, ninth grade students grew their composite scores by 3.1 points compared to the national norm of 1.0 point per year.

Ms. Andrietsch noted, “As we work to continue building a foundation for lifelong learning, we are encouraged – but not satisfied – by these results. I am looking forward to the work ahead with our outstanding team as we meet the needs and interests of our students.”

“This has been a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I am beyond grateful to the Ramirez family for their faith in me and this exceptional team,” said Carmona. “One of our core pillars at Aug Prep is family, a care and responsibility very near to my heart. While I will be returning with my family to Chicago, my time in Milwaukee will always be remembered as among the most transformative in my career. I know that our young learners will achieve their highest potential thanks to the dedicated teachers and staff who every day lead with faith, integrity and genuine love and care for those Aug Prep serves.”

About Augustine Prep

St. Augustine Preparatory Academy (Aug Prep) is a non-denominational Christian school on Milwaukee’s south side at 2607 South 5th Street. The school was launched in August 2017 and will serve grades K4-12. Centered on providing a loving environment to learn and grow, the school’s foundation is built on the four pillars of faith, family, academics and athletics. Aug Prep is a student-centered environment where young learners are encouraged to take ownership of their education not only in academics, but also physical health, creativity, and faith. To learn more about the Augustine Prep, please visit <http://www.augprep.org>.

###