



# Bourgade Catholic High School

## COLLEGE PREPARATORY



Have you been a passenger on the newest light rail extension yet? If so, you have our September Alum of the Month, Albert Santana, Class of 1996 to thank. Albert attended both St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School and Dunbar Elementary School before heading to Bourgade Catholic High School. Following high school, Albert earned his bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Marketing from Arizona State University, and then his master's degree from the University of Phoenix in Organizational Management.

While at Bourgade Catholic, Albert played basketball and baseball for all four years and earned a Scholar Athlete Award. He also was involved in National Honor Society and numerous community service projects. Albert's favorite subject was math, taught by Mrs. Mary Palsma and he also enjoyed classes taught by Mr. Greg Henke, who still actively serves Bourgade Catholic, as a counselor for juniors and seniors.

Albert currently works as the Director of High Capacity Transit for the City of Phoenix in the City Manager's Office. While in this position, Albert has compiled a list of accomplishments related to public transportation in the Valley, most recognizably, his work on the light rail system. To date, Albert has led several projects including the Northwest Extension project which was a \$326-million-dollar job that opened 6 months early, and on budget. Albert's current focus is heading the development of 47 additional miles of light rail, amassing \$8.9 billion dollars of infrastructure investment along with introducing and adding 75 miles of bus rapid transit.

Albert's work with the light rail transportation in Phoenix led him to be recognized as one of the *40 Hispanic Leaders Under 40* group in 2014. In addition to this accomplishment, Albert cites his strong relationship with his family and his faith as the highlights of his career.

When asked if his experiences at Bourgade Catholic played any role in his personal and professional success, Albert responded,

*"Coming to BCHS as a Freshman was my first interaction with individuals outside of my neighborhood, which is an inner-city Latino community. It was a little difficult at first, specifically from a cultural perspective. However, the welcoming environment offered at BCHS quickly allowed me to see the value in diversity and learning about different cultures, people with different backgrounds, etc. This, coupled with the high level of education, has provided me with a solid foundation to support my educational and career accomplishments."*

Bourgade Catholic High School is grateful to highlight Albert as the September Alum of the Month, and wishes him and his family the best of luck in their future. Onward Eagles, Upward Eagles!