

WHERE TO

A resource dedicated to student-athletes and their Life after Notre Dame.



DECEMBER 2023

A NOTE FROM DR. TOM CARTER III



What a first year! As 2023 draws to a close, I am filled with pride at all that Project LAND has accomplished on behalf of former student-athletes and managers. I am also deeply grateful to those who have contributed to LAND's success: our dedicated team and steering committee, the Notre Dame alumni community of Class Reps and Ambassadors, our service partners, Holtz's Heroes Foundation leaders, and the Notre Dame Athletics leadership and staff.

In the spirit of this season of joy, love, compassion, and connection, let's revisit an impactful year, with an eye on the new one fast approaching, when we will build upon our commitment to the health and well-being of individuals on their post-sports journeys.

An Awesome Start: Our April Launch – Project LAND's inaugural event took place during Notre Dame's celebrated Legacy Weekend, when many former football players returned to campus for the annual Blue-Gold intrasquad scrimmage. Nearly 50 Notre Dame alumni attended our event, demonstrating their commitment to LAND's vision.

Transition Triumphs – Across our five service pillars, we supported over 60 Notre Dame alumni in their transition to life after sports, providing tailored guidance to help them navigate the challenges and opportunities of this significant change.

An Impressive Number of Career Placements – Through our Career Transitions pillar, we secured new professional roles for 10 former athletes and are actively engaged with many others in their career development. This achievement is evidence of the commitment of these athletes and our tailored approach to addressing their unique challenges and aspirations.

Streamlined Support Processes – We developed comprehensive process flows for each service pillar to ensure our assistance to athletes is efficient in every circumstance. We also paved the way for continuous network expansion as a result of the widespread enthusiasm for our mission.

High-Quality Partnerships – We successfully forged official partnerships with esteemed organizations across each pillar, ensuring robust support for athletes no matter what they face.

We have much to celebrate and an inspiring blueprint for refining and expanding our services. That includes promoting them, through vehicles like this newsletter and social media (some 525 subscribers and followers to date, and counting) and enhancing connections within our LAND community with our new app coming in January.

Before we move on, please enjoy this December issue, with Spotlight articles by **Reggie Brooks** (ND '93) and **Ginny McGowan** (ND'18); an introduction to the exceptional services of one of the nation's largest providers of rehabilitation and recovery programs, **Select Medical**, in Partnership Place; and guidance on preparing for a successful job interview from Ashley Morgan in her **Career Connections** article. Remember to let us know about jobs, internships, and mentorships you or someone you know can offer for addition to our database of opportunities. Contact our Program Director, **Brandyn Curry**, to learn more.

Thank you for reading about Project LAND and for your dedication to former student-athletes and managers during this pivotal year and into the future. Together, we will continue to create stories of triumph and transformation. From all of us at LAND, Happy Holidays and New Year!