

**GO  
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**achievements.**

**SUCCESS STORY**  **page 2**

*Smart kids, smart choice: the Plattner family*

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## **SHAPING FUTURE BUSINESS OWNERS**

### **Vice President's Letter**

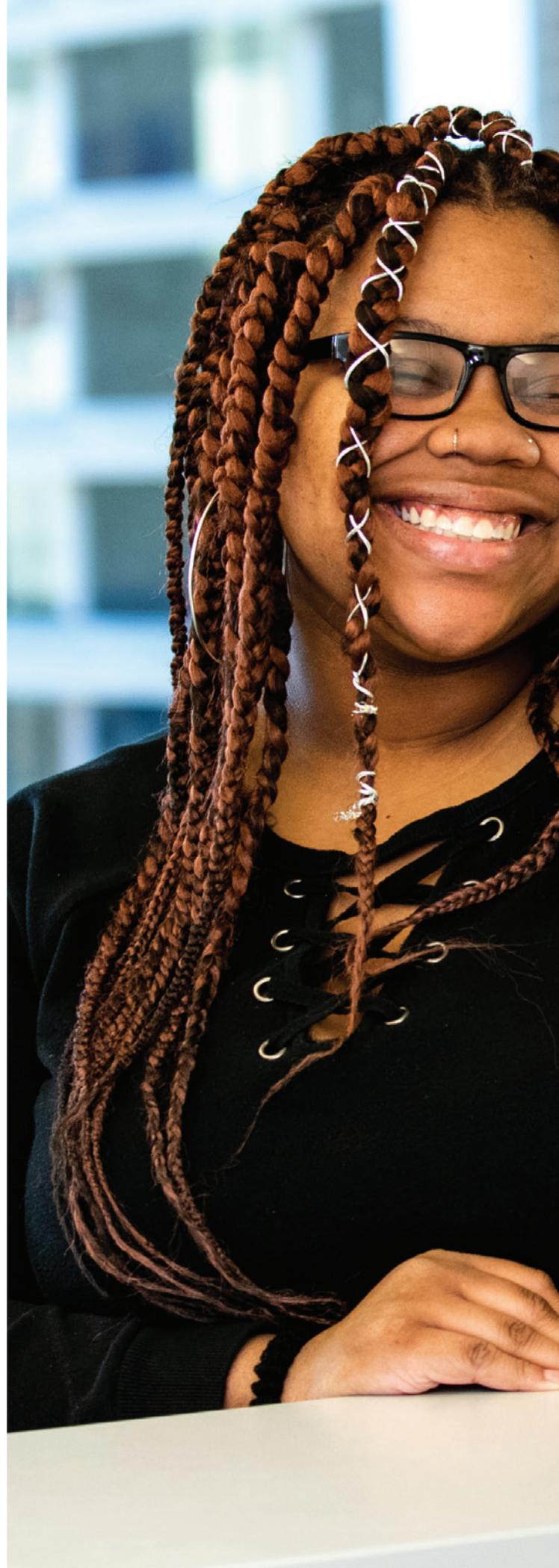
**Dear District 505 Residents,**

With spring in the air and commencement approaching, we can't help but look forward to our graduates' next chapter. Some will continue on to a four-year college or university, while others will pursue in-demand technical careers. A handful of Parkland College students will even start their own businesses.

One of the most exciting new developments on campus this spring has been the launch of CobraVenture, our new program for student entrepreneurs.

Made possible through generous donations to the Parkland College Foundation, CobraVenture provides participants access to Parkland faculty across a number of disciplines, networking with community entrepreneurs with stories of struggle before success, and a new resource center to learn where to take the next step. The result will be a fresh crop of Parkland-grown businesses in the community.

**Stephanie Stuart**  
**Vice President, Communications and External Affairs**





# read ahead.

2

## **FAMILY SUPPORT:**

### **Proud Parkland Parents**

Smart kids, smart choice: the Plattner family

3

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**

### **Parent Lab**

Taking the guesswork out of kids' schoolwork

4

## **STUDENT SUCCESS STATEWIDE:**

### **Illinois Juried Art Exhibition**

Eight Parkland student artists part of 2019 ICCJE

5

## **ALUMNI SUCCESS:**

### **Living the Dream**

Spotlighting career highs of four alums

6

## **INSPIRING HOPE:**

### **Peer Tutoring**

CAS's Omar Adawi raises more than math scores

8

## **COBRA CORNER**

Student athletes score on national stage

9

## **PLAN AHEAD:**

Upcoming events

**Go ahead is a biannual publication for the residents of Parkland College District 505.**

EDITOR

**Hilary Valentine**

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Rebecca Grosser**

WRITER

**Ruthie Counter**

PRESIDENT

**Dr. Thomas R. Ramage**

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**THE MISSION OF PARKLAND COLLEGE IS  
TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN LEARNING.**

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## FAMILY SUPPORT: PROUD PARKLAND PARENTS

A photograph of a man and a young woman standing outdoors. The man, Darren Plattner, is on the left, wearing glasses and a checkered shirt, looking towards the woman. The woman, Courtney, is on the right, with long blonde hair, wearing a pink top, looking back at him. They are standing in front of bare trees under a clear blue sky.

**“YOU’RE NOT LOSING ANYTHING BY RECEIVING A PARKLAND COLLEGE EDUCATION. YOU GET AN EQUAL OR BETTER QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A LOT LESS MONEY.”**

DARREN PLATTNER with daughter COURTNEY

### **Sending kids to Parkland ‘no brainer’ for Darren Plattner**

*Champaign residents Darren and Sue Plattner wanted their children, five straight-A scholars, to have fulfilling college experiences. One by one, they’re sending them to Parkland College.*

Darren Plattner, a Champaign Central High School physics teacher, calls their decision a “no brainer” for several reasons, and the Plattner children, who continue to excel academically and professionally, agree.

#### **PASSIONATE PROFESSORS: CALEB**

For firstborn Caleb, the Plattners’ “musically talented” kid, it was Parkland’s faculty that made the difference. “I really liked being able to talk to and have a relationship with professors there, not because they wanted to do research, but because they wanted to teach,” Caleb explained. “They were passionate about what they were doing.”

After Parkland, Caleb earned his BS in accounting from the University of Illinois and now works as a financial controller for a Peoria engineering controls company.

#### **PROMISING PATHWAYS: HALEY**

Haley, the second oldest whom Plattner describes as “cool under pressure,” earned her BS in chemistry from the U of I in just three years with help from the Parkland Pathway to Illinois. This program allowed her to take Parkland and Illinois courses during her first two years, enjoying the benefits of both schools. “Having smaller class sizes and more one-on-one time with professors at Parkland really did make the

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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT: PARENT LAB

### *Taking the guesswork out of kids' schoolwork*

To help area residents boost their ability to help their kids and grandkids with school subjects, Parkland's Project READ program started the Parent Lab, a collaboration with Champaign Public Library's Douglass Branch and Champaign Unit 4 Community Schools. Participants work with tutors to familiarize themselves with school-based skills and content. They also learn how to use educational technology, research and career development tools, and other resources at the Douglass Branch.

*Parent Lab runs Monday evenings at the Booker T. Washington School library. For information, email [projectread@parkland.edu](mailto:projectread@parkland.edu).*

### ✓ PLATTNERS, CONTINUED

difference in my enjoyment of classes." Today, Haley is earning her medical degree at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Pressure, indeed.

#### **ENRICHING EXTRACURRICULARS: COURTNEY**

Illinois State University junior Courtney, third in line and the Plattners' "compassionate" child, plans to teach in an urban bilingual school after earning her BA in Elementary Education. Before transferring to ISU this spring, she cemented her career choice through work with the Parkland College Student Education Association (PCSEA) and its faculty advisor, Professor Charles Larenas, who also directs the Illinois State Migrant Education Program. "Charles—my favorite teacher—took me under his wing and offered me a job this summer as an assistant teacher in his program working with Latin American students," Courtney said. "That all happened because of Parkland College."

#### **SATISFYING SCHOLARSHIPS: ZACHARY AND TREVOR**

Zachary, the "handy" one among the five, plans to study civil engineering or construction management courses at Parkland this fall after graduating from Central. Like all his older siblings, Zachary plans to use Parkland's Board of Trustees Scholarship, a half-tuition waiver offered to the district's top high school seniors, to complete his degree. Plattner says it's also likely that youngest sibling Trevor, a bright seventh grader and the "fun-loving" child, will also benefit from the scholarship to attend Parkland.

"You're not losing anything by receiving a Parkland College education," Plattner added. "You get an equal or better quality education for a lot less money."

## VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED!

Help adults with basic reading, math, and/or English as a Second Language. Tutors are needed throughout Parkland's district, and tutoring is held in public spaces. Requires 14 hours of training and a 2-hour/week commitment. See [parkland.edu/projectread](http://parkland.edu/projectread) for more information.

## AHEAD OF THE CURVE: BOT SCHOLARSHIPS

This spring, Parkland College sent Board of Trustees Scholarship award letters to qualifying high school seniors for the 2019–2020 academic year. The deadline to accept the scholarship offer is June 1. For more information, contact Admissions at [admissions@parkland.edu](mailto:admissions@parkland.edu) or 217/351-2482.

## STUDENT SUCCESS STATEWIDE: ILLINOIS JURIED ART EXHIBITION

### *Eight Parkland student artists part of 2019 ICCJE*

Several Parkland College Art students were selected to exhibit their work in the 2019 Illinois Community College Juried Exhibition. Their works were on display this spring in the Visual Arts Gallery at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois. Participating students included:

- Kayla McEvoy, Sadorus  
(received two Honorable Mentions)
- Catherine White, Champaign
- Logan Ingold, Champaign
- Kenneth Levi Neff, Paxton
- Stephen Kaufman, Urbana
- Ray Irani, Champaign
- Chris Johns, Champaign
- Najma Motan, Champaign

This annual juried exhibition celebrates the creative work of young artists. More than \$1,000 in awards, including a \$400 Best in Show Award, are presented during a closing reception at the gallery.



FROM L TO R: PARKLAND  
STUDENT PARTICIPANTS KAYLA  
MCEVOY, CATHERINE WHITE,  
LOGAN INGOLD, KENNETH LEVI  
NEFF, STEPHEN KAUFMAN, AND  
RAY IRANI

## ALUMNI SUCCESS: LIVING THE DREAM

### Spotlighting career highs of four alumni

Citing Parkland College as the launchpad for their academic and career successes, four alumni at various stages in their careers are enjoying newsworthy achievements they've only dreamed about.

#### LEON LEWIS-NICOL '17: MAKING MARK IN MUSIC



Rising musician Leon Lewis-Nicol, a former Parkland College Fine and Applied Arts student, made his solo debut this spring with the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra (MDSO). One of three student winners of

the annual Concerto and Aria Competition at Millikin University, Lewis-Nicol performed Edvard Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A Minor, Allegro molto moderato" at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center on Millikin's campus.

Of his Parkland experience, Lewis-Nicol said, "Parkland played a great role in giving me a foundation that prepared me for my studies at Millikin University. Prior to Parkland, I had never studied piano professionally or played at recitals. My professors (especially my music professors) were very helpful in giving tips and very encouraging; this helped me gain more confidence. I never in a million years thought I would have such an opportunity, but this goes to show that your background has nothing to do with what's possible for you. This experience is a testament to the truth that hard work pays off eventually."

#### PERRY CLINE, '16: FROM PRISON TO COLLEGE



A "strong component of support from faculty and advisors at Parkland College" led Cline, a 51-year-old formerly incarcerated Chicago native, to earn his associate's degree in Fine and Applied Arts at Parkland

and his bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Illinois in 2018. He has since landed a job as a substance abuse treatment case manager and also become the featured subject of an Illinois Public Media story. "My life's work now is to help others," Cline stated in the article.

#### BRAD EVANS, '99: PROMINENT SPORTS JOURNALIST



Journalist Brad Evans, a columnist for Yahoo Sports, has won more individual Fantasy Sports Writers Association awards than any analyst in the industry, including two

Football Writer of the Year and five College Sports Writer of the Year awards, for his NCAA Basketball coverage. He was inducted into the FSWA Hall of Fame in 2017. A regular featured analyst on the Emmy-nominated "Yahoo's Fantasy Football Live," Evans is also creator and cohost of "The Fantasy Football Hour" on Altitude TV, which earned "Best Video" nominations in its first three seasons. "The challenging coursework, engaged professors, and small class sizes at Parkland College boosted my confidence," Evans said of his success. "As a result, my organizational and critical thinking skills flourished. Parkland provided the necessary preparation for me to excel at a four-year institution, the University of Illinois, and beyond. Having that foundation propelled me forward and blazed a trail for career achievement."

#### NOLAN HARMON, '17: ROSE BOWL TV ANNOUNCER



In the right place at the right time, Communication program transfer Nolan Harmon served as a Big Ten Network announcer for his "dream university" Ohio State and its Buckeyes football squad during the

105th Rose Bowl this past January. The OSU senior interviewed Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year Dwayne Haskins, a sports dream moment. "If you had told me on January 12th, 2015, on my first day at Parkland, that just about four years later I would be announcing my childhood dream team, I would have thought you were an even bigger dreamer than me," Harmon stated in a recent Facebook post. "I worked incredibly hard at Parkland so that I could go here." The Pesotum native plans to join WCIA-TV Channel 3 News this summer as a sports intern.

**GO AHEAD  
INSPIRE**



OMAR ADAWI (L) AND TIM THORP (R) 

## **INSPIRING HOPE: PEER TUTORING**

### **CAS'S OMAR ADAWI RAISES MORE THAN MATH SCORES**

Tim Thorp's tutee was terrified of college math.

"Way back in high school, she had had an instructor who basically told her she was no good at math and chewed her out for making a mistake on a problem," said Tim, a part-time Parkland mathematics instructor. "She left the class in tears, and that was the last time she took math."

Tim could relate to having unpleasant high school experiences and thinking that college was out of reach. In fact, he had dropped out and earned his high school equivalency (GED) through Parkland College Adult Education in 2007. There, he discovered not only a love of math and science but a joy in helping other learners grasp the material. "When you're helping others through their work and understanding where they're having trouble, it reinforces your own understanding of it."

Tim later enrolled at Parkland, where he met Omar Adawi, Peer Tutoring program coordinator in the Center for Academic Success (CAS) and a 25-year physics and math professor at Parkland. Omar suggested he reach for a new goal: becoming a college peer tutor. It would be a career-defining moment for Tim.

"When he first came in, he was little hesitant," Omar remarked. "So we would meet occasionally and talk about strategies together." To beef up his science and math skills, Tim took nearly all the chemistry, physics, and calculus sequences Parkland offered. He became a peer tutor by his fourth semester. A year later, he was ready for transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Tim earned his BS in Engineering Physics with a minor in computer science from the UIUC in 2014.

## **MOVE AHEAD: PEER TUTORING GAINS TOP-STAGE CERTIFICATION**

Now in its 26th year, Parkland College's Peer Tutoring program was certified as a Stage Three, Level 1 tutor training program by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) this past fall. This means our peer tutors meet nationwide qualifications for helping fellow students learn. CRLA awarded the five-year certification based on our program's focus on developmental mathematics and adept use of Productive Tutoring Techniques videos.

The program's 12 student tutors were selected based on academic performance, previous experience, and interest in helping others. They assist fellow students with all levels of math and with physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, accounting, business, economics, Spanish, and other subjects.

"Parkland gave me hope, especially coming from feeling bad about myself and where I was—no high school diploma, wanting to do something that involved academics but not feeling like I had a place to go initially—to having the opportunity to get the GED, and then take the steps I needed to get into a university," Tim said.

After the UIUC, Tim started peer tutoring at Parkland again, taking a class or two to qualify as a student. And once again, Omar had bigger plans for him: part-time instructor. "He told me I had the credentials to teach nontransferable math courses at Parkland because of my physics courses at the U of I," Tim explained. Tim said he owes his career success, in large part, to Omar's mentorship.

"Omar has been a big help with my confidence," he said. "He gives students who do well in his classes the opportunity to both further themselves academically and then further other students in their academic pursuits, through the Peer Tutoring program."

## **CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

For Parkland College students needing help with understanding college subjects, the Center for Academic Success is a welcoming, helpful place. CAS offers one-stop learning support services including faculty and peer tutoring, a writing lab, academic advising, and a computer lab with supplemental modules in math, reading, and writing. Located in Room D120 on the main campus, CAS is open Monday–Thursday 8 am–8 pm and Friday, 8 am–5 pm. For more information, call 217/353-2005 or email [centerforacademicsuccess@parkland.edu](mailto:centerforacademicsuccess@parkland.edu).

# COBRA CORNER



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
THE NEWS-GAZETTE

## ***Parkland Student Wins Boston Marathon Wheelchair Division***

On April 15, Parkland College student **DANIEL ROMANCHUK** became the first American man to win the Boston Marathon wheelchair division since 1993 and the youngest to have done so thus far. He won the race in 1 hour, 21 minutes, and 36 seconds, repeating a feat he accomplished at the New York Marathon last November and the Chicago Marathon last October. He also placed third in marathons in Boston and London in 2018. The freshman intends to transfer to the University of Illinois; he currently trains and competes with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Wheelchair Racing Team.



## ***Yaakema Rose Jr. Named NJCAA All-American***

Men's Basketball sophomore guard **YAAKEMA ROSE JR.** was named a 2018–19 NJCAA Division II All-American, as announced by the national office in April. He was selected as a Third Team All-American after leading the Cobras to a 24–4 overall record and a 2019 Mid-West Athletic Conference Championship. A native of Springfield, Illinois, Rose led the Cobras with 16.1 points per game with a 43.9 shooting percentage, while also grabbing 4.1 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. He shares Region 24 Player of the Year honors with John Wood's Cory Miller Jr.



## ***Women's Basketball Coach Retires***

Women's Basketball Head Coach **MIKE LINDEMANN** announced his retirement in March, on the heels of a six-year tenure at Parkland in which he led the Cobras to three NJCAA Tournament appearances. Hired prior to the 2013–14 basketball season, Lindemann continued to extend the program's success with three NJCAA Tournament berths and four conference titles in his first four seasons at the helm. Highlighting the run, Lindemann guided his second team to an impressive 35–2 overall record in 2014–15, including a perfect 10–0 record in conference, and the program's first appearance in the NJCAA DII National Championship Game.



# PLAN AHEAD

## FOR THESE SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS!

### GIERTZ GALLERY

#### **Design: Parkland College Student Juried Show**

May 13–30; reception and awards ceremony, May 15, 5:30 pm

#### **Don Lake: A Watercolor Retrospective**

June 17–August 8; Reception: June 20, 5:30–7:30 pm

#### **Art Expedition**

Art Institute of Chicago:  
*Manet and Modern Beauty*  
July 25, 7:30 am–7 pm

#### **Art Expedition**

Chicago Architecture River Cruise  
August 7, 7:30 am–7:30 pm

### STAERKEL PLANETARIUM

#### **Spring Prairie Skies at Planetarium**

Fridays, 7 pm (closed May 24)

#### **Boy Scout Astronomy Merit Badge Workshop**

May 14 and 22, 7–9:30 pm, planetarium lobby

### PARKLAND COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Visit [www.parkland.edu/ceRegister](http://www.parkland.edu/ceRegister) to sign up.

#### **Summer Fitness Classes**

Starting late May 2019

Try one of our early morning, daytime, or after-work classes: Boot Camp, Core & More, Drum and Dance Fit, Gentle Yoga, more.

#### **Youth Special-Interest Classes**

Try a class with your child or grandchild in one of our new family-focused classes.

- Family Calzones, ages 5–10, May 18
- Family Frosting Fun, ages 9–14, June 1

#### **College for Kids**

Summer enrichment program for students 8–13

Two sessions: June 17–27 and July 8–18

Class times: 12:45–2:45 pm and 3–5 pm

New classes: Dynamic Doodles, Digital Art, Slime Sensations, VEX IQ Robotics, Babysitting 101 and Beyond, Pastel Possibilities, the Latin Kitchen, and more!

#### **Summer Teen Camps**

- Girls' QUEST Stem Camp, July 22–25
- Drone Camp, June 24–27
- Machining and Welding, June 10–20, July 8–18, July 22–August 1
- First Gig Rock and Roll Camp, June 10–14
- Reverb Music Recording Workshop, June 11–12

### Travel

- Overnight Art Expedition: Frank Lloyd Wright and Prairie School Architecture, Mason City, Iowa, May 30–31
- The Souldard and Historic St. Louis, June 28

### Professional Development

- What's STRONG with You: Unlock Your Potential, May 29
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional Exam Prep, June 3–7
- Skype: Facilitating Virtual Meetings, June 12
- Mental Health First Aid Training, July 16–18

### PARKLAND MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Free events!

#### **Concert Band and Orchestra**

Sunday, May 5

3 pm • Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

#### **Guitar Ensemble**

Wednesday May 8

7 pm • Parkland Second Stage

#### **Parkland Pops**

Saturday, May 11

1 pm • Parkland Second Stage

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217/351-2200 | [parkland.edu/contactus](http://parkland.edu/contactus)

Parkland College ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, gender expression, disability, sexual orientation, veteran/Vietnam veteran era, age, or religion, and is Section 504/ADA compliant. For additional information or accommodations, call 217/351-2551.

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