Crusade News Briefs

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- We are thrilled to share the news that our CFO Irene McCormick was honored with a 2013 CFO Award from Providence Business News in April. The awards celebration was held in the delightful Bello Center at Bryant University, and CFOs from FM Global, CVS Caremark, Amica, and other well-regarded companies were also recognized. We congratulate Irene for her accomplishment and thank her for her stellar work on behalf of our students!

- Congratulations also to Crusaders Lauren Rochefort of Woonsocket High School, Adedayo Monteiro of Mount Pleasant High School, and David Ramos of La Salle Academy, who were named Bank of America Student Leaders for 2013. This summer they joined other students nationwide at a leadership summit in Washington, D.C., and completed paid internships with the Boys & Girls Clubs in Rhode Island.

The mission of the College Crusade is to increase high school graduation, college and career readiness, and college completion for youth in our state’s low-income communities.

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Welcome to Mary Beaudoin Alexandre, our new Development Officer; and Candace Harper, our new Family Engagement Coordinator. Welcome also to Crusade alum Chereva McClellan ‘04, who has joined us as Transition Counselor. Chereva, a graduate of Shea High School and Roger Williams University, will be supporting Crusaders as they transition from high school to post-secondary degree programs and careers.

Celebrating at the State House

Crusaders win high participation awards on RI GEAR UP Day

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Governor Lincoln Chafee, Sen. Hanna Gallo, Rep. Frank Ferri, Rep. Joy Hearn, Rep. Joseph McNamara, and Chief of Staff Jennifer Wood from the Lt. Governor’s office spoke to the crowd about the importance of preparing for college and offered their congratulations to all the students in attendance. We were thrilled to recognize so many Crusaders for their dedication to success. Above, our high school award winners pose for a picture with Governor Chafee!

Turning Dreams into Reality

Eight graduating seniors talk about themselves and their plans for the future

Caroline Akiode ‘13

Olouwademilola Animashuan ‘13

(continued on page 2)
Dear Friends,

The College Crusade has always focused on helping young people realize their dreams of going on to college. This issue of Inspire Support Believe highlights the plans of a few of the nearly 200 Crusaders who, thanks to your support, have just graduated from high school and are heading off to college in the fall.

As we look to the future, we are setting out in a very strategic and focused manner to increase our support for Crusaders as they transition to higher education – and to provide, for the first time, Advisory and support services to help them complete college. This emphasis on “getting the whole job done” is reflected in our new mission statement (see the back page) as part of our 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. Initially, our work in this area is being implemented through partnerships with each of the state’s public colleges, with support from the TG Public Benefit Grant Program and the federal College Access Challenge Grant program. We are exploring similar opportunities with Rhode Island’s private colleges.

The College Crusade is well positioned for success in this new arena. Research has shown that the highest risk of dropping out of college occurs during the freshmen year. As we reported in our recent Annual Report Card, Crusaders’ first-year persistence rates are approximately 10 percentage points higher than the rates for all students at both public and private colleges in Rhode Island.

We are grateful for your interest in our work. With your continued support, we look forward to building upon our Crusaders’ successes and increasing the number of low-income urban students who graduate from college prepared to take advantage of the opportunities the 21st-century workplace affords.

Sincerely yours,

Jane D. Childs

From page 1 – Turning Dreams into Reality

Giakris Gomez ‘13
Graduating from: Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex
Favorite subject: English. Because: “I like to put my thoughts on paper.”
Especially: Writing poetry.
Will attend: Rhode Island College.
To study: Political science. Then law school.
Wants to be: A judge. “I believe I am headed there.”

Giancarlos Herrera ‘13
Graduating from: Central High School. Favorite subject: History. “I like learning about how leaders in the past were able to create a functioning society.” Latest challenge: Undergoing cancer treatment and its aftereffects during sophomore and junior years. How he made it through: With the support of friends and family.
Will attend: University of Rhode Island.
To study: Political Science. And then: Law school.

Zeyra Martinez ‘13
Will attend: University of Rhode Island.
To study: Business management.

Sebastian Mercado ‘13
Most fascinated by: The Roman Empire. Second favorite subject: Biology. Especially: Lab experiments.
Will attend: Bryant University.
To study: Biology, with a minor in history. And then: Medicine.

Sarah Ogundare ‘13
Will attend: University of Rhode Island.
To study: English and public health.

George Graboys
“The College Crusade is not just an airy idea. It works.”

“I am a big believer in education and what it can do for people. It’s important to be able to think critically and to express yourself well. Education enriches people’s lives and opens the way to new experiences. It is also the ticket to a higher income. There are many examples of people right here in our state who have lifted themselves out of poverty by achieving an education. The College Crusade is not just an airy idea. It works, and the organization has done an impressive job in documenting its positive impact on student attainment. It’s great to see efforts like this succeed.”

George Graboys is the retired CEO of Citizens Financial Group. He has served as chair of the Board of Governors for Higher Education and chairman of the board of The Rhode Island Foundation.

Fla Lewis III
“‘The College Crusade has always had a special place in my heart because I was involved with it from the very beginning. I was a member of the Board of Governors for Higher Education when we voted to create the Crusade over 20 years ago, and I was appointed by Governor Bruce Sundlum as its first chair. I continue to support it because it is being properly run and is fulfilling its mission well. Education is the pathway to self-improvement. It is absolutely essential to moving forward in life. Our society will be more successful if we have an educated population and young people have the tools they need to contribute.”

George Graboys

Fla Lewis III is principal of Wayboott Research & Management, a financial services firm in Providence, and serves as a trustee for Community Preparatory School.

Sarah Ogundare ‘13

Michael Rodriguez ‘13

To learn more about these and other graduating seniors, visit www.thecollegecrusade.org/spotlights
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George Graboys
President & CEO

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Did You Know...

Crusaders may be out of school for the summer, but their learning never stops. Middle school Crusaders dive into our CAAP adventure education program, mix academics and fun in a program hosted by Wheeler School, and get involved in project-based learning with SPIRIT. High school Crusaders engage in leadership and personal development seminars, campus residencies, career exploration weekends, academic workshops, and much more. By summer’s end, close to 1,200 Crusaders will be full of new ideas and experiences and ready to begin their classes again.

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