



**Inspire.**

**Support.**

**Believe.**

Making the dream of college and success possible for Crusaders

Welcome to the new issue of *Inspire Support Believe*, the newsletter of The College Crusade of Rhode Island.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
for our  
**BELIEVE**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**2013**  
November 6  
8:30-10:00 a.m.  
Radisson Airport Hotel  
Warwick

[www.thecollegecrusade.org/believe](http://www.thecollegecrusade.org/believe)

## Celebrating at the State House

*Crusaders win high participation awards on RI GEAR UP Day*

On June 4, nearly 80 Crusaders joined parents, College Crusade staff and board members, and honored guests to celebrate **RI GEAR UP Day** at the State House.

Dozens of middle school and high school students came forward to receive recognition for their high participation in College Crusade programs.

**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**  
**Graduating from:** Times<sup>2</sup> Academy. **Favorite subject:** Math. "I'm good with numbers. The answer is what it is." **Also likes:** Physics. **Why:** "I like to know the theories behind things." **Will attend:** University of Rhode Island. **To study:** Civil engineering. **Dream job:** Being a private or public sector engineer, working on building projects with clients. **Looks forward to knowing:** "I built that."



**Oluwadamilola Animashaun '13**  
**Graduating from:** Mount Pleasant High School. **Favorite subject:** History. "I love hearing about the past. If history does repeat itself, maybe we can learn from our mistakes." **Especially likes:** The Sixties and the Civil Rights era. **Will attend:** University of Rhode Island. **To study:** Mechanical engineering and African American history. **What he does for fun:** Learns. Writes poetry. Reads philosophy. **Favorite saying:** "I am indebted to my father for living but to my teacher for living well," from Alexander the Great.

### inside:

- 2 / CEO's Message
- 3 / Why We Give
- 4 / The Back Page

### on the web:

For the latest in Crusader news, join our Facebook page or stop by our blog at [www.thecollegecrusade.org/blog](http://www.thecollegecrusade.org/blog)

*(continued on page 2)*



## ceo's message

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 21<sup>st</sup>-century workplace affords.

Sincerely yours,

### From page 1 – Turning Dreams into Reality



#### Glarkis 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

**Graduating from:** Shea High School. **Favorite subject:** Spanish 5. **Recent memorable book:** *Las lágrimas del sol*, by José María Merino. **Highlights of her senior portfolio:** An essay on bullfighting, a commentary on immigration and history, a piece on the Cyclops story in Homer’s *Odyssey*.

**Will attend:** University of Rhode Island.

**To study:** Business management.



To learn more about these and other graduating seniors, visit [www.thecollegecrusade.org/spotlights](http://www.thecollegecrusade.org/spotlights)

# why we give

**“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 Sundlun 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 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.*



**George Graboys**



**Fla Lewis III**

**“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.”**

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



**Sebastian Mercado ‘13**  
**Graduating from:** Woonsocket High School.  
**Favorite subject:** History. “I like knowing where we came from.”  
**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**  
**Graduating from:** Davies Career Tech High School. **Favorite subject:** English. “I love to read and I love to write. Knowing how to communicate is vital.” **Recent memorable book:** *The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World*, edited by Toyin Falola and Matt D. Childs. **Latest accomplishments:** 2013 Civic Leadership Award from the RI Secretary of State. 2013 Leadership Award from the RI Lieutenant Governor. **Will attend:** University of Rhode Island.  
**To study:** English and public health.

**Michael Rodriguez ‘13**  
**Graduating from:** Classical High School. **Favorite subject:** Psychology. **Why:** “I find it interesting, and a lot of it reminds me of my grandfather’s wise advice.” **Such as:** “Find out what makes you happy.” **Latest accomplishment:** Getting accepted into 11 colleges. **Will attend:** Drexel University. **To study:** Interactive digital media. **Dream job:** “Owner of my own company. Waking up each morning and creating something new.”





## Crusade News Briefs

► The College Crusade is grateful for many generous contributions we have received over the past several months. We thank the **Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee**, for a two-year \$150,000 grant to provide matching funds for our federal GEAR UP grant, and **United Way of Rhode Island** for awarding us a three-year grant totaling over \$160,000 to support an expanded media literacy program for middle school and high school students. We are grateful to **The Rhode Island Foundation** for again supporting our work with an \$80,000 operating funds grant. We thank **Cox Charities New England** for its grant of \$10,178 to support GEAR UP activities at Gilbert Stuart Middle School in Providence, along with \$180,000 in in-kind support to develop and air public service announcements. We are also thankful for **The Providence Journal Charitable Fund**, which awarded us \$25,000 toward operating needs. Your help makes a difference!

► 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**.

## 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.

**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.*

## Staff News

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.



**THE COLLEGE CRUSADE  
OF RHODE ISLAND**

*Inspire. Support. Believe.*

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