



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.

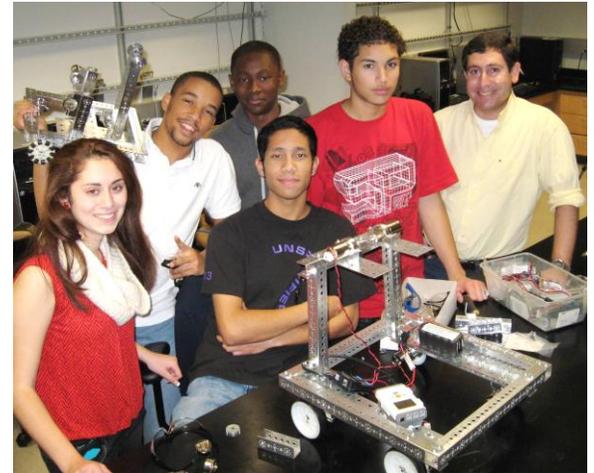
The mission of The College Crusade is to increase high school graduation, college and career readiness, and college completion for youth in our state's low-income communities.

Ready! Set! Robot!

Team Unspecified builds this year's robot with help from a Brown University mentor

Team Unspecified, The College Crusade's high school robotics club, marked its third straight year of competing in the statewide FIRST Tech Challenge at **New England Institute of Technology** in February. Our veteran team members worked after school for months with mentor **John Raiti** in the School of Engineering at **Brown University**. They designed a robot to meet the competition challenge and learned a lot of engineering and physics along the way.

Pictured at right with two robot models in the works are Crusaders **Shanty Pineda, Alexis Cabrera, Ayokunle Akinrimisi, Michael Rodriguez, and Miguel Casillas**, with mentor John Raiti. To see a video with interviews of team members discussing their engineering



decisions during a build session in the lab at Brown, go to <http://vimeo.com/58100328>. Many thanks to the Providence Section of the IEEE for helping to sponsor our team!

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on the web:

For the latest in Crusader news, join our Facebook page or stop by our blog at www.thecollegecrusade.org/blog

Neighborhood Builders

The College Crusade receives a prestigious award from Bank of America



The College Crusade of Rhode Island has been named the recipient of the **Neighborhood Builders** program award for 2013 from **Bank of America Charitable Foundation**. Neighborhood Builders is a nationwide program

At far right, **William Hatfield**, president of Bank of America Rhode Island, joins several members of the board of directors of The College Crusade. In front from left are **Stuart Yarlus, Colleen Callahan, Paul Moran, Saikon Gbehan, and Deborah Grossman-Garber**. In back from left are **Manny Vales, Sylvia Natale, Warren Simmons, James Vincent, José Monteiro**, and College Crusade president & CEO **Todd Flaherty**.

sponsored by Bank of America that helps address local challenges in community development, workforce development and education, and other critical needs. The program provides high-performing nonprofits (*continued on page 2*)



ceo's message

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to bring you the first issue of *Inspire Support Believe*, our newsletter for friends and supporters. Look for it in your mailbox three times a year to read stories about our students' accomplishments and get up-to-date news from The College Crusade of Rhode Island.

I hope you had a chance to read the top story on page 1, which features five of our seniors in a photo with their robotics mentor from Brown University. Our robotics club gives high school Crusaders an opportunity to work with sophisticated technology and to learn STEM concepts that prepare them for college-level courses. As they prepare to go off to college next fall, several of the students from this year's team are planning to pursue engineering as a career.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see exciting news about our Neighborhood Builders award from Bank of America and our recent Partners in Philanthropy honorees. Thanks to individual contributors Sydney Tynan and Rodney & MercaDee Clifton for offering their thoughts about why they give to The College Crusade. And don't miss our News Briefs on page 4, which include an announcement about our newly published Strategic Plan for 2012-2017.

Finally, I also have the pleasure of sharing a piece of breaking news with you. Our talented and dedicated CFO, Irene McCormick, has just been recognized with a 2013 CFO Award from the *Providence Business News*. We are thrilled to know that her faithful and expert shepherding of our finances for over 20 years has been acknowledged with this prestigious award. We thank her, and you as always, for caring about Crusaders.

Sincerely yours,

From page 1 – Neighborhood Builders

with \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding and leadership development for their executive directors and emerging leaders.

Earlier this month, representatives from Bank of America and The College Crusade gathered with several previous award winners to celebrate the award announcement at Ocean State Theater Company in Warwick. **William Hatfield**, president of Bank of America Rhode Island, welcomed the festive crowd and described the special nature of the award program.

"The Neighborhood Builders award that The College Crusade has received from Bank of America is a powerful award," he said. "It's powerful in the sense that it really recognizes those organizations in our community that are making a significant difference in the lives of our citizens every day. These are high-impact, high-potential organizations that are demonstrating, through their hard work, progress that will

enable us to move forward as a state. The College Crusade is such an organization. It has created a strong foundation for helping young people seize the opportunity to be educated and commit themselves to being the best they can possibly be."

According to College Crusade CEO and president **Todd Flaherty**, the funds awarded by the Neighborhood Builders program have the potential for bringing transformative change. "We are honored and humbled by this tremendous gift of recognition and support from Bank of America," he said. "Their investment will enable us to address two areas that are crucial for improving education in Rhode Island, while providing substantial support for our operating needs. We will expand our family engagement programs, so more low-income parents will be equipped to guide their children along a path to higher education. And we will strengthen our college completion initiatives, so more students will finish their degrees."

why we give

“The most important thing you can give to a child is an education. I value education because it permits you to see both sides of a story. You don’t have to believe what someone tells you, because you can find out for yourself what is true. An education helps you to have an interest in life and more confidence in yourself. Students who have seen their parents struggle, who know what it’s like to be stuck at a level of work that they can’t get beyond – they know that with more education, they will be able to reach higher someday. These are the children who need help, and that is why I do it.”



Sidney Tynan

A voracious early reader, Sidney Tynan has had a lifelong appreciation for education and believes that every child has potential. She was trained as a remedial teacher and owned her own bookstore in Tiverton Four Corners. In addition to supporting The College Crusade, Sidney also gives to two schools in Cambodia.

“These are the children who need help, and that is why I do it”



Rod & Merc Clifton

“Life is very much enriched by education. It gives people a wider sense of the world and a reason to hope. We both know the difference that a college education makes because we watched our siblings and high school classmates in Nebraska struggle with the lack of it. The need in Rhode Island is likewise very great. There are many students who don’t finish high school, who come from families that might not value higher education. We want to invest in students so our state will have well-educated workers and a stronger economy. We also want to contribute where money is used well. It’s easy to feel good when we know our gift goes to an organization that gets results.”

Rodney Clifton is Professor of Engineering (Research) and Rush C. Hawkins University Professor Emeritus at Brown University. MercaDee Clifton is the owner of Books on the Square in Providence.

The award from Bank of America also involves an important investment in leadership development opportunities for Todd and for **Chanda Womack**, our high school field coordinator, who was selected as our Neighborhood Builders emerging leader. Over the next several months, as part of the program award, both Todd and Chanda will attend multiple leadership conferences conducted by the Center for Leadership Innovation.

Chanda has already attended her first conference, which took place in Phoenix, Arizona, in February. “It was a life-changing experience,” she said. “There were 60 of us in attendance, representing nonprofits from all over the country, and every day started at 7:30 a.m. and went until at least 7:00 p.m. The speakers gave us fresh eyes, challenged us to clarify our thinking, and taught us how to examine our strengths and weaknesses. They told us, you are here as emerging leaders, and we are going to help you emerge.” ■



Our Partners in Philanthropy Shine

We honored our board chair **Paul E. Moran** and the **Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee**, as our Partners in Philanthropy at the **National Philanthropy Day** breakfast in November. From left to right are Crusade Advisor **Shawn Daily**; **Michealle Larkins** of the Balfour Foundation; **Todd Flaherty**, president & CEO of The College Crusade; **Warren Simmons**, vice chair of our board of directors; **Paul Moran**; and Crusade Advisor **Catalina Perez**.



Crusade News Briefs

► The College Crusade has a new corporate video, thanks to the energy and talents of **Mike Anastasio**, a graduate in video production from **New England Institute of Technology**. Mike took us on as the subject of a capstone project to complete the requirements of his degree last fall. He spent the whole summer shooting video of Crusaders in action and interviewing friends, supporters, staff, and alumni of The College Crusade. His nine-minute video, titled *Meet The College Crusade of Rhode Island*, is available at <http://vimeo.com/57389457>. We encourage you to experience Mike's excellent work and to let us know your feedback.

► Many thanks to **TG's Public Benefit Grant Program**, which is providing a \$210,372 grant over two years to help us launch a new **college completion partnership** with the **Community College of Rhode Island**. The goal of this project, combined with other recent partnerships we have formed, is to create a seamless system of support for Crusaders from the time they enter sixth grade all the way to college graduation. The grant from TG also provides matching support for important components of our college-readiness programming for high school students.

► We are excited to announce that our **Strategic Plan for 2012-2017** is final and will be published soon in print and online. Our Board, staff, and alumni collaborated with our school, community, and policy partners to create a strong plan that maps out the goals, objectives, and strategies we will follow to achieve our mission over the next five years. To receive a copy of our plan, please contact Bob Oberg at boberg@thecollegecrusade.org, or go to our website and click About Us / Mission & Strategy.

Did You Know...

Since the school year started, Crusaders have gone on college visits to **Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Bridgewater State University, Community College of Rhode Island, Emerson University, Nichols University, Northeastern University, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, University of Massachusetts-Boston, and University of Rhode Island**. During April school vacation week, they will visit over a dozen more!

Save the Date!

Do you believe in RI youth? Come to our **Believe Breakfast on Wed Nov 6, 2013**, and celebrate with us! **More details coming soon.**

Staff News

Todd Flaherty, president & CEO, is on the Advisory Council of the Rhode Island Partnerships Project (<http://ripartnerships.org/about>). One of his responsibilities is to spearhead a project called "Making the Case for Bringing Students Back to College in Rhode Island Through a One-Stop-Shop Model."

Maria Carvalho, Associate Director for College Readiness & Persistence, was elected to a three-year term as a New England Regional Council Member-at-Large for the College Board.



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