Crusade News Briefs

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Crusade of Rhode Island, 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.

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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!

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 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)
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,

Joe D. Flaherty

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.”

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; Darren Simmons, vice chair of our board of directors; Paul Moran; and Crusade Advisor Catalina Perez.

why we give

“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 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.
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News from The College Crusade of Rhode Island


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Remote Monitoring and Management (RMM) Monitoring a remote site so you can monitor and manage it from your office, home, or on the road.

Insight into the remote site's performance.

Remote Management is...