

# DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

## Cristo Rey Brooklyn From Backpacks to Briefcases

**A**ron Heron has held jobs at JPMorgan and the prominent law firm of Jones Day. Joel Perez has worked at the Dime Savings Bank, the Kings County District Attorney's Office, and investment manager Alliance Bernstein. Fanni Lema's resume includes Cushman & Wakefield and Ridgewood Savings Bank.

What do these employees have in common? They are all teenagers who haven't graduated high school – yet.

Cristo Rey Brooklyn, a low-tuition Catholic high school in Bushwick, offers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum combined with a unique work study experience. All students work one day per week in a corporate office to help subsidize approximately 60 percent of their educational cost. Prior to being placed at a company, students participate in the school's three-week Summer Training Institute sponsored by National Grid Foundation.

"I feel like I'm getting a head start on life," explained Joel Perez, Class of 2013. "People in my generation don't always know how to act in front of others. At Cristo Rey, we're taught how to make a good first impression, and how to dress properly for work. We're learning how to interact in the real world."

Other students echo that sentiment. "The Corporate Work Study Program was an eye-opener for me," said Marika Fraser, a senior who has worked at DeSales Media Group for the past two years. "I made connections at a very young age, and I've learned that communication is very important."

Christine Roman, Assistant Principal, is quick to point out that the students take what they've learned on the job and apply it to the classroom. "Our students work hard to reach the ambitious academic goals we've set for them," she said. "We have seen an improvement in time management and critical thinking skills since

they've started working for our corporate sponsors."

This spring, Cristo Rey Brooklyn celebrated its first graduating class, all of whom were accepted into college. Members of the Class of 2012 received offers from 60 universities, including grants and scholarships totaling nearly \$3 million.

"The beauty of the corporate work study experience for our students is that it provides a through-line for them, connecting their academic success to their future goals," explained Enuma Menkiti, Director of College Guidance. "They see firsthand the future that a college education can provide, and they build valuable skills that will directly contribute to their post-secondary success."

For more information, or to apply, please contact the Cristo Rey Brooklyn admissions office at (718) 455-3555, or visit [www.cristoreybrooklyn.org](http://www.cristoreybrooklyn.org).

CRISTO REY  
*Brooklyn*  
HIGH SCHOOL

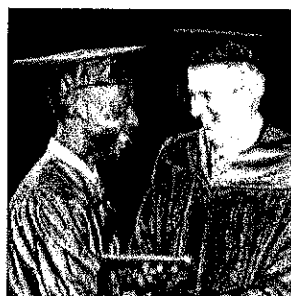
### INFORMATION SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

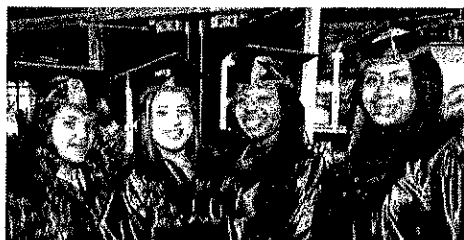
Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

*from 6-8 pm*



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TACHS exam not required



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