Don Bosco Cristo Rey

High School and Corporate Work Study Program

CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM

THE SCHOOL THAT WORKS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON

www.dbcr.org
For students in the Greater Washington area who have limited financial resources but dream of going to college, Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School and Corporate Work Study Program offers a clear path to follow their dreams.

Don Bosco Cristo Rey (DBCR) High School is a rigorous private college preparatory school in Takoma Park, Maryland. Coupled with its Corporate Work Study Program, which is conducted in partnership with the local business community, DBCR students gain professional work experience and earn money to pay for more than half of their education.

Believing that a quality education is the best way to economic self-sufficiency, DBCR has created a remarkable community outreach program that is empowering thousands of students from low-income families. The program develops a pipeline of highly educated predominantly minority students who are prepared for college and inspired to drive change in their communities.

For these students, the Cristo Rey model is a hand up. It is revolutionizing urban America, and DBCR is one of twenty-eight schools in the nationwide Cristo Rey Network of catholic college-preparatory schools helping underserved young people of all faiths. The jewel in the crown of Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School is the Corporate Work-Study Program, a national educational model in which local businesses invest in student workers to make college-preparatory education possible for students with financial need.

With a campus located just a stone’s throw from the nation’s capital, DBCR has a current student enrollment of more than 380 and an incoming freshman class of 110. Its students come from 54 ZIP codes within Prince George’s and Montgomery counties and D.C., and represent 42 countries of origin. Every single one of its students in the last five graduating classes was accepted to college; 92 percent of the Class of 2014 were the first ones in their families to attend college.

Under the Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP), students earn valuable hands-on job experience, while contributing to the cost of their educations through their jobs. Businesses gain young but mature employees eager to learn, an opportunity to have a hand in molding the students’ futures and a gratifying feeling of “doing good while doing well.”

“I have found that our students get excited about learning and get a clear vision about their futures and careers through our Corporate Work Study Program,” says Fr. Steve Shafran, S.D.B., president of DBCR. “Our young people come from some very tough backgrounds; they want to succeed and need the tools to motivate, inspire and give them confidence. The Corporate Work Study Program does just that. With their job placements, our student workers come in contact with great professionals in the Washington business community who help empower them. In time, we see a great transformation in our students, contributions to their companies increase, they mature and then begin to understand the value of education and the great importance of going to college, all key for their futures.”

Kevin C. Virostek, Greater Washington Managing Partner of Ernst & Young, says his company is committed to DBCR because of the measurable impact they have had on the young people.

Reed Smith is proud to support Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, its Corporate Work Study Program, and the Washington, D.C. community.

“Pro bono and community service work is a vital part of our office — as important as anything we do here.”

— Gary Thompson, Reed Smith Washington, D.C. Office Managing Partner and D.C. Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year (co-winner)
Francis Kpue is one student who has benefited immensely from the CWSP. He works even allows him to help train the Georgetown student interns. “It gives students the opportunity to prove we can be mature, professional and do what adults do, and it’s a great exposure to experience the real world and helps us know what we’d like to do in the future,” Kpue says.

Joseph Ferrara, chief of staff to Georgetown President John J. DeGioia, says Francis has become a trusted member of the staff who brings professionalism and a kind demeanor to any task he takes on, adding “I’d like to hire Francis permanently if we could.”

DeGioia concurs. “Our collaboration with Cristo Rey is animated by our shared tradition and strengthened by our shared values—a commitment to academic excellence, social justice and service to our community,” he says. “These values help to provide a context for young people—whether as Cristo Rey students or as Cristo Rey alumni studying here at Georgetown—to realize their full promise, discern the impact only they can make, to become their very best selves.”
For the companies who sponsor students through Don Bosco Cristo Rey’s Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP), the value is about more than philanthropy and benevolence. The program teaches the importance of self-responsibility, motivation and becoming a contributing member of society. Corporate partners are committed to seeing these students succeed in the workplace. A strong mentoring relationship balanced with constructive feedback, as well as professional and personal development, is key to preparing students for a competitive workforce and for life.

The CWSP is an innovative plan that trains the students, then sends a rotating team of four students to the company’s offices from September to June. Each student works one day a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The school transports the students to work. The students’ earnings fund a significant portion of the cost of their education. Businesses benefit by getting work equal to that of one full-time staff, and because the students are employees of the CWSP, the school handles all aspects of their employment. This means the companies also save money on taxes, worker’s compensation, health benefits and other administrative overhead costs.

Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School has more than 100 corporate partners from an array of industries, including accounting, construction, education, financial services, healthcare, hospitality, legal, real estate and science, technology and engineering. Students perform a variety of tasks such as filing, copying and scanning, sorting and delivering mail, managing records, greeting visitors, helping with volunteer activities, planning events, helping with special projects and assisting in IT.

When Kevin C. Virostek, Greater Washington Managing Partner at Ernst & Young, was first introduced to the program, he was blown away by the enormous impact he believed the program could have on students, families, business partners and the community. “I shared this with some of my colleagues at EY and we all had the same response—we had to figure out how to be involved,” he says. “It is easy to write a check to an organization, attend an annual gala or volunteer a couple times a year, but with DBCR you get to see the fruits of your partnership and investment every day as the students work, mature and grow with your employees and have a very tangible presence in your office.”

Thomas J. Fitzpatrick, chief financial officer and chief administrative officer of Iridium Communications, was sold on the program recently after taking a tour of the school. “I was escorted around by two students who described their backgrounds and their CWSP jobs and I was immediately impressed,” he said. “I could see the positive effect the program was already having on them, and one of the students was only a freshman.” Fitzpatrick added that Iridium will benefit from the fresh perspective and unique skill sets the students will bring to the global mobile satellite communications company.

DBCR sophomore Gabriella “Gabby” Mendez has worked as a receptionist and most recently in data entry for the product integrity department at Marriott International where she produced the cover for a presentation on the status and performance of select hotels. “I had been to a Marriott hotel with my family, and when I got the opportunity to work there, I knew it was something I wanted to do. It was a great experience for me.”

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but I never really understood all that goes on behind the scenes,” she said. “Working for Marriott has opened my mind and helped me gain perspective on all the details and systems that go into renovating the properties and making them the best they can be.”

Amanda Everett, director of product integrity for Marriott International, says Gabby has been a wonderful addition to the staff. “She is efficient, detail-oriented and enjoys learning new things,” Everett says. “In many ways, she and her classmates are the future of our customers, so her insight has been fantastic.”

Liam Brown, Marriott International’s president, U.S. & Canada, believes in the program because the company is devoted to creating a new generation of leaders and because being involved with the program has brought Marriott “committed, hard-working students who want to get ahead.”

“We are committed because it resonates powerfully with our culture, which is one of opportunity, hard work and personal growth,” Brown said. “Through the combination of work and education, they learn real-life skills.”

Gary Thompson, Managing Partner of the Washington office of Reed Smith LLP, concurs, adding that his company has been impressed with the diligence and hard work of DBCR students.

“Youre office will be enriched by the students; these are responsible workers and eager young minds looking towards a bright future,” Thompson said.
Don Bosco Cristo Rey student Calvin Jackson was one of the first students mentored by the Jones Day law firm through the school’s Corporate Work Study Program.

Even though he worked in the receptionist department, he asked to meet with supervisors in other departments so he could learn what they did and how their role was important to a law firm.

He even asked the lawyers to borrow their library books so he could study different aspects of the law.

Soon after, Jones Day learned that Calvin had been accepted to Georgetown University.

“We were not a bit surprised,” said Saundra C. Madyun, human resources manager at Jones Day. “It was very clear to us that he was serious and determined to do the very best job, which he did.”

This is the kind of exceptional commitment, zest for learning and earnest motivation that Don Bosco Cristo Rey Corporate Work Study Program students bring to the businesses where they work.

As incoming executive director of the Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP), Ana Chapa is charged with recruiting businesses and organizations who wish to hire, mentor and support DBCR students. Every student enrolled at the school participates in the CWSP, and motivated freshmen arrive each year excited to be a part of it. More than 100 businesses are already participating, many of them well-known corporations, nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

“Our students do not let their humble beginnings define who they will grow up to become,” Chapa said. “It is through the Corporate Work Study Program that our students break the cycle of poverty by graduating from high school with a college-ready education and a résumé filled with four years of professional work experience.

“In the workplace, students learn things they could never learn in a traditional classroom and these are lessons they carry with them for life,” she continued. “They build relationships that help them recognize the value of a college education and the importance of working hard to attain a long-term goal.”

At Jones Day, students have had the opportunity to handle everything from clerical work and data entry to organizing records storage, cataloguing library materials and assisting with conferences and computers.

“There are so many competencies important for young people preparing for the workforce...
Motivate. Transform. Succeed.

KPMG LLP is proud to support Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School. Our involvement with your Corporate Work Study Program enables us to drive positive change in the community and empower students to succeed.

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If your company or organization wants to support both education and future workforce development, please consider Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School and Corporate Work Study Program. The benefit to your bottom line is proven. The impact on student achievement is extraordinary. Together, we will transform the Greater Washington area, one student at a time.

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