CRISTO REY
PHILADELPHIA
HIGH SCHOOL

President's Newsletter

May 20, 2026

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey,

Last month, members of our Senior Management Team and additional school leadership attended the national Cristo Rey Network Meeting. An annual tradition, those who work for and support this Outrageously Bold Cristo Rey movement, from across the nation, gather each year to share best practices, new findings, and exciting initiatives. This year, our team traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to visit Cristo Rey St. Viator College Preparatory High School. The 36th school in the network, Cristo Rey St. Viator opened in 2019 and graduated its inaugural class in 2023 with 56 graduates!

While at the event, we learned of some outcomes found by researchers from University of Pennsylvania, Washington University in St. Louis, Boston College, and Jiminez Strategies & Analytics. Their paper, entitled, *Are Work-Based Professional Skills Associated with Postsecondary Entrance and Persistence? Novel Evidence from the Cristo Rey Network* is a part of a larger Alumni Economic Mobility Study that is currently being conducted by the Cristo Rey Network. They had some very exciting findings in their study and hope to ultimately answer the question: Does a Cristo Rey education cause upward economic mobility?

In this study, the overall research shows that the skills and professional habits Cristo Rey students develop in their Corporate Work-Study jobs, under the mentorship of their supervisors, significantly increase their likelihood of completing college in four years, even after accounting for GPA, SAT, and college quality. Plainly, students with stronger professional skills are 32% more likely to graduate from college! Researcher, Dr. Shaun M. Dougherty, Professor of Education & Policy at Boston College, says, "Career education is often thought of as incompatible with college prep — which of course it isn't. Cristo Rey has thoughtfully identified that there are skills beyond Math and Reading that promote long-term upward economic mobility."

Over the last 14 years, the support of the Greater Philadelphia business community has been the cornerstone of our model and we all believed it was having a tremendous impact. To now see this validated through data and research furthers my appreciation for our corporate partners and my optimism for our students. At a time when Philadelphia was recently determined to be the worst large city in the United States for economic mobility, I can more confidently than ever tell you that Cristo Rey Philadelphia is part of the solution and provide you with the data to back it up. The Cristo Rey mission and model is working, because our city is working together to make it happen!

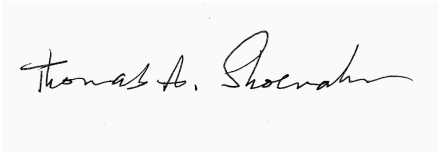


I hope you'll take the time to look at both the 1-page summary and the working paper by clicking on the buttons below.

Summary **Working Paper**

With less than a month of school left for our Seniors, we are finalizing plans for their end of year celebrations. Our Commencement will be held on Friday, June 5 at 7pm at St. Joseph's University's Hagan Arena. If you're looking to see this work in action, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love to see you at graduation or have you visit school before we break for the summer!

With Outrageously Bold Hope,



Tom Shoemaker
President & CEO
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

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