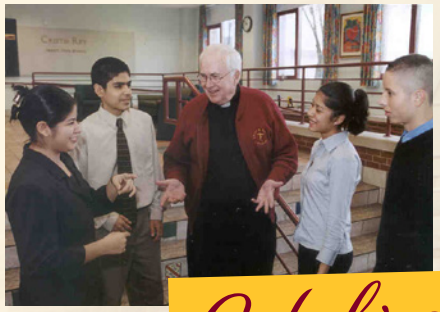


30 YEARS

CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT



Celebrating 30 YEARS of Ideas, Hopes and Dreams

In 1996, the Jesuits approached Pilsen and Little Village residents to ask what the Jesuits could do for the community. Going door to door to collect feedback, it became clear that the community wanted a high school, but not just any school. They wanted it to be safe, accessible, affordable, and to be for their primarily Spanish-speaking, Mexican immigrant community.

Thus, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School was born.

To make the experience affordable for the working-class families in the community, the Corporate Work Study Program was developed. Students would work one day each week at companies across the city to earn a majority of their own cost of education. Thirty years later, the model still stands. The faith-based, dual-language, college-preparatory education, in combination with professional work experience, has allowed 3,000+ students to thrive in college, careers, and beyond.









IN 2025-2026:

- 476 enrollment
- $43,352 median family income
- 100% biliterate, bilingual student body
- 100% first-generation college students

Friends of Cristo Rey,

I have been involved with Cristo Rey Jesuit High School for more than a decade, and can confidently say that this has been the most active year yet. In my first year as board chair, Cristo Rey celebrated a landmark 30th anniversary, underwent a presidential search and transition, and launched an exciting workforce development curriculum.

As I reflect on the 2025-2026 school year, I see not only the hard work and effort of the current faculty, staff, students, and families, but the thousands that have come before them during our 30-year history. It took the faith of Chicago families and Chicago businesses to believe in this mission in our founding years, and it is our privilege to carry on that legacy for the next 30 years. The Corporate Work Study Program continues to evolve to prepare our students for professional success and fruitful careers, and our academic program has never offered more advanced coursework than it did this year.

It was an honor to support in the search for our next school president alongside thought partners who represented vital perspectives of the Cristo Rey community. Outgoing president Antonio Ortiz served our school for 25 years, and I am grateful for his leadership throughout his 14-year tenure as president. Julio Paz was introduced as president and began his journey on June 1. The year ahead will include even more celebrations of our 30th anniversary, and I am excited to have Julio guide us forward in the decades to come.



Thank you for your role in our success, and VIVA Cristo Rey!

Cory Hebenstreit,
Board Chair













¡VIVA! is Cristo Rey's annual fundraising event, and this year, it also served as the school's 30th anniversary celebration. Record attendance led to record fundraising, as supporters pledged nearly $1M to the school's annual fund. In attendance were 500+ supporters including alumni, Jesuits, school founders, longtime job partners, former faculty and staff, and their generosity made the event a success. The event focused on the past, present and future of Cristo Rey, with reflections from those who have taken the mission from Pilsen out to now 41 schools across the country. Thank you to all those who joined in this lively celebration and made history with us!

WATCH: Scan the QR code to view the ¡VIVA! 2026 video suite highlighting the past, present and future of Cristo Rey.



FIRST-YEAR BUSINESS TRAINING

The Corporate Work Study Program has long been the cornerstone of the Cristo Rey experience. Since 2020, the program has been in flux as broader changes in the professional workforce impacted student jobs and program operations. The hybrid work environment and rapid technology advancements have resulted in changed entry-level jobs that have led to decreased job placements for students.

To keep students engaged, and to better prepare them for the higher demands of the current workforce, Cristo Rey developed a full-year business training curriculum for first-year students. All freshmen now spend their workday on campus participating in a workforce preparation program that integrates professional skills, academic enrichment, and executive functioning skills.

These courses were developed by academic leaders, corporate partners, and consultants from a variety of perspectives to ensure that this training leads to success in the workplace, classroom, and beyond. After the first year, the results are exceedingly positive. Freshmen students received 250 hours of training that included classroom sessions, offsite visits, group projects, presentations, 1:1 mentoring, and career panels.

Student assessment scores doubled from pre- to post-testing for Microsoft Office courses. The average exam score for Excel exams was 91.3%. All students visited 2+ college campuses. Over 50 volunteers engaged students with 1:1 mentoring calls and career panels. As rising sophomores, 100% of these students started their first CWSP internships in September.

Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP)

The School That Works

Supervisor of the Month

CWSP is successful because of the individuals at our 100+ partner companies that supervise and mentor our students on a daily basis. We are incredibly grateful for their support in developing the next generation of talent.

87% of the Class of 2026 said that their CWSP job interests them as a possible career. Their supervisors and mentors are a key part of cultivating this career interest.

The CWSP launched a Supervisor of the Month program to recognize the outstanding folks who support and manage students. Their daily interactions have a lifelong impact.

Congratulations to the first cohort of honorees and thank you for your impact.



Karla of El Hogar del Niño with Maria V. '27



Kevin of CIBC with Blanca C. '26



Julie of Collins Engineers, Inc. with Adela C. '26



Ally with Old Republic



Elaine at Loyola University Medical Center with Xochitl P. '26



250

hours of business training for freshmen

98%

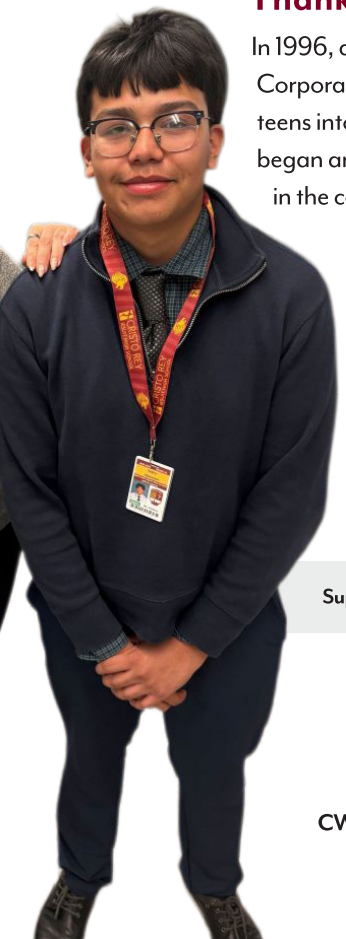
of seniors agreed that their CWSP experience was an important and meaningful part of their high school education



Commuting on CTA

The CWSP offers students an early look at careers and offers professional development that they'll carry well beyond high school. A major component of the program is fostering independence for students as they navigate their workplaces and the downtown environment. This year, students gained more independence through a transition to utilizing public transportation. All students working downtown now take the CTA Pink Line each morning and evening, commuting just as they would for their eventual college internships and professional jobs.

Thank You, Partners!



In 1996, a handful of companies came on board as the first job partners of the Corporate Work Study Program. Unsure of what it would be like to welcome teens into their offices, these companies nonetheless opened their doors and began an experiment that has now become the largest private school network in the country. Thank you to these pioneers who are still with us 30 years later!

30-Year Partners: Aon, National Museum of Mexican Art, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, Loyola Press, O'Keefe Lyons & Hynes LLC

Welcome to our newest job partners who joined our program this year: Jet Support Systems, Inc, Shore Capital Partners, Office of US Senator Tammy Duckworth, Old Republic General Liability, Parkinson School of Health Sciences & Public Health, and Article Student Living.

Supervisor of the Month Ana G. of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP with Sidro A. '28

100+
CWSP Job Partners in 2025-2026

$2.8M
earned by students in 2025-2026

2025 - 2026 JOB PARTNERS

Thank you to our 100+ job partners who welcomed our students to their workplaces during school year 2025-2026! Each day, they welcomed the next generation of talent to their offices, creating a direct pipeline of eager, diverse leaders into a wide range of industries. Companies that provided philanthropic support to underwrite a nonprofit organization denoted with an asterisk*

Advanced Group
Alivio Medical Center
AON
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Article Student Living
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
BatesCarey LLP
Belvedere Trading
Big Shoulders Fund
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Illinois
BMO Harris Bank
Boston Consulting Group
Brookfield Asset Management
Byline Bank
Campagna Turano Bakery, Inc.
Capital Group
Catholic Extension
Chapman and Cutler LLP
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
CIBC
City of Chicago: Office of the Mayor, Brandon Johnson
Clifford Law Offices
Clifton Larson Allen (CLA)
CME Group
Collins Engineers
Constellation Brands*
Cook County: Office of the Assessor, Fritz Kaegi
Cook County: Office of the Sheriff, Tom Dart
Cook County: Office of the State's Attorney
Cooney & Conway
Corboy & Demetrio
Cristo Rey Network
Croke, Fairchild, Duarte & Beres
Crowell & Moring LLP
Deloitte*
Easter Seals
Economic Club of Chicago
El Hogar del Nino
EN Engineering
Equity Lifestyle Properties*
Erie House
Foley & Lardner LLP
Forde & O'Meara LLP
Google
Greater Chicago Legal Clinic
Grosvenor Capital Management*
GTCR
Harrison, LLP
Hinsdale Bank & Trust Company
HITEC
Hometown America
Huron Consulting Group
Ice Miller
Jet Support Systems, Inc (JSSI)
Jones Day
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
King & Spalding
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Lamar Johnson Collaborative
Latham & Watkins LLP
Latinos Progresando
Legal Advocates for Seniors & People with Disabilities (LASPD)
Legal Aid Chicago
Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC
Little Village Chamber of Commerce
Loyola Press
Loyola University Medical Center
Madden, Jiganti, Moore & Sinars LLP
Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC
Malman Law
Marquette Bank
Mayer Brown
McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
McKinsey & Company, Inc.*
Mesirow Financial
Mikva Challenge
Milliman
Mt. Sinai Hospital
National Equity Fund
National Futures Association
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Museum of Mexican Art
Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, LLP
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
O'Keefe Lyons & Hynes, LLC
Office of US Senator: Tammy Duckworth
Old Mission Capital
Old Republic General Liability
Old Republic Professional Liability
One Equity Partners*
Parkinson School of Health Sciences & Public Health
Partner Valuation Advisors
PMA Consultants
PODER
Power Construction
Relativity
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Shore Capital Partners
Sidley Austin LLP
St. Procopius
Stantec
Stritch School of Medicine
Taller de Jose
The Resurrection Project
Troutman, Pepper Locke
U.S. District Courts
University of Chicago Medicine
UNO Chicago
V&V Supremo
Winston & Strawn LLP
Wintrust Bank



ACADEMICS

Students are considered "college-ready" with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, which is the goal for every Cristo Rey student. Last year, the overall average GPA was 3.01, which demonstrates a strong commitment to academic endeavors. The school also looked to increase student retention, and achieved a four-year retention rate of 84%, up significantly from the previous ~70% average.

Our Advanced Placement program gives students the opportunity to take college-level courses and earn college credit while still in high school.

In spring 2026:

- **24 students took 339 exams across eight AP courses.**
- **85% of AP test takers earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one exam.**
- **95% earned college credit through the two Spanish AP exams.**

Three Decades of Excellence

Academics & Student Life

Kings of the Court

The Cristo Rey Network includes 41 schools from across the country, including many in the Midwest. Each year, the athletics programs from these area schools partner on special Cristo Rey exclusive tournaments. This year, Pilsen hosted schools from Chicago, Waukegan, Indianapolis, and Cleveland for a Kings of the Court boys volleyball tournament. Players prayed and played together throughout the day, ending with a tournament where the Cristeros took 2nd place!





Juan G. '26 was honored with a National Sportsmanship Award, presented by BODYARMOR. Juan was awarded the "Power of Sport" Award for his exceptional sportsmanship. Juan was nominated by an opposing coach for his support of an injured opponent during a tournament. This award was in addition to Juan's recognition as Player of the Year for the Chicago Prep Conference.



The Senior Class of 2026 Cheer Team is the first to complete four full seasons of competitive cheer! Their dedication, leadership, and commitment have truly set the standard for what it means to be part of this program. We're incredibly proud of the legacy they're creating!



In February, the Boys JV Basketball Team won 3rd place in the Chicago Prep Conference Tournament with a 41–37 victory over Westmont. **The team's 16–6 record is the best in school history.**

70%
participation in athletics

97%
of students engage in an extracurricular activity

81%
of seniors strongly agreed that their community service experience was positive and meaningful



Students Celebrate the Sacraments

In April, 30 students received sacraments surrounded by classmates, teachers, families and staff. This sacred celebration reflected the courage of our students and Cristo Rey Jesuit's commitment to nurturing faith through shared experiences that connect spiritual formation, learning and community.





SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning invites Cristo Rey students to put their faith into action. Through community service, reflection and advocacy, students deepen their understanding of social issues and their responsibility to serve others.

Harrison Hawks

Cristo Rey partners with the Chicago Parks District on many fronts, especially around our shared home field at local Harrison Park. Through this relationship, Cristo Rey began a partnership with the Harrison Hawks, the park's Special Olympics Basketball team. In January, the Hawks came to Cristo Rey for a pep rally and basketball exhibition game against the varsity Cristeros and Cristeras. The athletes brought the energy to the gym, and the entire student body was present to cheer on the Hawks!









VIDEO: Alejandra L. '26 speaks on Capitol Hill during the 2025 Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, using her voice to advocate for just migration policies.

LIVING THE MISSION: JESUITS AT CRISTO REY

During the 2025–26 school year, Emmanuel Arenas, SJ, Daniel Park, SJ, and Fr. Patrick Hyland, SJ strengthened Cristo Rey Jesuit's Catholic and Ignatian identity through teaching, Campus Ministry, counseling and leadership. Their daily accompaniment supported students' academic, spiritual and personal growth while bringing the school's commitment to faith, justice and service to life.



12,000
hours of community service completed 2025-2026

95%
of seniors felt that retreats were positive and meaningful part of their Cristo Rey experience

99%
of seniors reported that there is at least one adult at CR that they trust



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Students Expand Their Horizons Through Summer Enrichment

Cristo Rey Jesuit students spent the summer exploring their academic interests, preparing for college and experiencing life beyond Chicago through enrichment programs across the country. With support from the College Counseling team, students attended programs at institutions including Carleton College, Georgetown University, University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Amherst College and Boston University. Through college-level coursework, career exploration, faith formation and independent living, students returned with greater confidence, meaningful friendships and a clearer vision for their futures.

To and Through College



Letty Corral Named Chicago's Latinos 40 Under 40

Letty Corral '05 was recognized by Negocios Now as one of Chicago's Latinos 40 Under 40, an honor celebrating emerging Latino professionals for their leadership, professional achievements and commitment to their communities. Corral serves as Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships at Medline and was honored alongside leaders representing business, government, technology and nonprofit organizations across the Chicago region.



Cristo Rey Network Recognizes Amy Bustos

The Cristo Rey Network featured Manager of Alumni Support Amy Bustos '17 in its Alumni Advisor Spotlight Series. A former Cristo Rey English teacher, Amy now helps graduates navigate college and career opportunities while encouraging first-generation students to seek support, advocate for themselves and embrace new challenges.



Alumni Work Experience with McDonald's HQ

Four McDonald's executives, including CEO Chris Kempczinski, visited campus in January. They were joined by six alumni who now work at McDonald's HQ and represent varied roles in marketing, accounting, finance, IT and cybersecurity. The alumni shared about how their CWSP experience influenced their post-secondary journeys and instilled a work ethic that gave them a headstart in their careers. This conversation inspired a partnership that now includes two student jobs at McDonald's HQ and a Chicago Community Impact Grant.



THE CLASS OF 2026

100%
first generation college students

98%
enrolled in college: 90% to a 4-year, and 8% to a 2-year

78%
committed to match/over match schools

88%
Pell eligible graduates

$430
average out-of-pocket college cost

30 Years of Leadership









Thank you, Tony!

Antonio Ortiz began working at Cristo Rey in 2000, and was named school president in 2012. Over his 25+ years of service to the school, the student body grew to 600 students, with key investments in Advanced Placement courses, college and socioemotional counseling, technology infrastructure, and Corporate Work Study Program professional development. Under his leadership, college admissions, retention, and degree obtainment reached levels equivalent to students in the highest income quartile, allowing our first-generation, bilingual students opportunities to thrive in post-secondary institutions and beyond.

Tony was celebrated throughout the year, including a special recognition by US Representative Jesus "Chuy" Garcia on the Congressional floor. He was awarded the Marquette Award, a school recognition honoring a staff member who embodies the spirit and tradition of Jesuit education first brought to the Pilsen and Little Village communities by Fr. Jacques Marquette.

Thank you, Tony, for your decades of service to the students and families of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School!



2025-2026 Inaugural Presidential Scholars

These students embody the spirit of our founding leaders: academic excellence, leadership, commitment to faith and service, and a desire to be Men and Women for Others: Michelle T. '27, Damien V. '27, Mauricio M. '27, Dayanara M. '27, Leonardo I. '27, Jocelyn D. '26, Gabriela R. '26, Arnold R. '26, Diego E. '26, Ivan M. '26

NEW LEADERSHIP

Cristo Rey Jesuit Welcomes New President

During Cristo Rey Jesuit's 30th anniversary year, Julio Paz was named the school's next president. A nonprofit leader with deep roots in Chicago's Pilsen community, Julio brings extensive experience in philanthropy, education, community development and external affairs.

Julio succeeded Antonio "Tony" Ortiz and began his service on June 1, 2026, carrying forward Cristo Rey Jesuit's legacy of faith, academic excellence and opportunity for generations to come.



30 YEARS OF BELIEF:
A FUTURE BUILT TOGETHER

Since 1996, generations of donors, corporate partners, families, alumni, Trustees, and friends have believed in the promise of Cristo Rey Jesuit students. What began 30 years ago as an innovative idea has become a thriving community that prepares young people to succeed in college, in their careers, and as compassionate leaders committed to creating a more just world. As we reflect on the 2025-2026 school year, we are profoundly grateful for everyone whose generosity sustained this mission and helped bring Cristo Rey to this important milestone.

More Than a Gift

Every contribution to Cristo Rey represents an act of belief: belief in the potential of our students, in the sacrifices of their families, and in the transformative power of a Jesuit education paired with meaningful professional experience. During the 2025-2026 school year, our community continued to support scholarships, academic programs, student services, and the Corporate Work Study Program. Donors also strengthened Cristo Rey through estate commitments, corporate partnerships, event participation, volunteer service, and introductions to others who share our belief in educational opportunity.

Our Next Chapter

Our 30th anniversary gives us an opportunity to celebrate all that this community has built while looking confidently toward Cristo Rey's future. As we begin a new chapter under President Julio Paz's leadership, our mission remains firmly rooted in the vision that has guided Cristo Rey from the beginning: that a young person's potential should never be limited by their family's income.

Thank you for accompanying our students and families on this journey. Whether you have supported Cristo Rey for decades or joined our community this year, you are part of a legacy that continues to open doors and change lives. Together, we will build on that legacy and ensure that generations of Cristo Rey students can learn, grow, work, lead, and thrive.

With gratitude,

Cindy Erwin
Vice President of Advancement

2025-2026 Financials

Unaudited FY2026 Financial Statement

FISCAL YEAR 2026 SUMMARY

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
CWSP	$2,842,239	Salaries & Benefits	$6,873,002
Advancement	$3,580,827	Depreciation	$1,265,923
Tuition & Fees	$833,688	Operating Expenses	$798,582
Endowment	$752,750	Facilities	$743,371
Other	$87,723	Student Programs	$479,920
		Technology	$339,005
		Transportation	$113,981
TOTAL REVENUE	**$8,097,227**	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$10,613,784**





Each of these numbers represents something much more personal: a student encouraged, a family supported, and a future filled with greater possibility:

98%
of our families received tuition assistance through the generosity of our donors

$1,411
average family contribution after scholarships and financial aid

Ways to Give

- **Recurring Donations**
- **Tribute Gifts**
- **Donor Advised Funds**
- **Matching Gifts**
- **Named Scholarship Funds**
- **Planned Giving (1996 Legacy Society)**
- **Stock Gifts**

Scan to donate now!

Online: cristorey.net/donate
Phone: (773) 890-6800

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Attn: Advancement Office
1852 West 22nd Place, Chicago, IL 60608

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. EIN 36-4067306





To make an impact, contact Cindy Erwin, Vice President of Advancement at (708) 790-5685 or cerwin@cristorey.net.

To become a Corporate Work Study partner, contact Maureen McInerney, Sr. Director of Business Development & Strategy at (773) 890-6820 or mmcinerney@cristorey.net.

291
individuals and organizations made their first gift to Cristo Rey Jesuit

260
donors gave for the third year in a row or more - three donors have made a gift in every year of Cristo Rey's existence!

30 YEARS | CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

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CRISTO REY
JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL
30 Years
CHICAGO 1996

OUR MISSION / NUESTRA MISIÓN

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School provides a Catholic, college preparatory education and professional work experience to students from Spanish speaking families with limited financial means.

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School ofrece una educación católica, preparatoria para la universidad y experiencia laboral profesional a estudiantes de familias de habla hispana con medios financieros limitados.

1852 West 22nd Place, Chicago, IL 60608

www.cristorey.net