



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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News

DATE: April 13, 2009

RELEASE: Immediate

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Cristo Rey Catholic High School Initiative Moves Forward

COLUMBUS - A team of more than 100 local business, community, and Diocese of Columbus leaders has launched an initiative to prepare young people with limited financial options for college by opening an innovative, private Catholic college preparatory high school in Columbus by 2011. The proposed school will follow the national model of Cristo Rey high schools and will be funded in part by full time jobs shared by the students.

The Columbus initiative began in 2008 when local corporate leadership and the Catholic Diocese of Columbus partnered to explore the opportunity of launching a Cristo Rey school locally. In October of 2008, the team secured formal approval from the Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, to engage in a year-long feasibility study, the first step in the process. Since then, a group of more than 20 young professionals formed to organize a fundraiser to finance the initial costs of opening the school.

The Cristo Rey Columbus fundraiser will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, from 6-9 p.m, at Huntington Park, new home of the Columbus Clippers baseball team, Columbus, and will host more than 200 local leaders in an effort to raise \$100,000. Tickets are limited and can be purchased by contacting Lucia McQuaide, Diocese of Columbus Superintendent of Schools and Episcopal Moderator for Education, at 614-221-5829 or cmcquaid@cducation.org.

In 1996, the first Cristo Rey high school was founded in Chicago by the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) to provide quality Catholic education to underprivileged urban young people. The

school served as a model for a national movement and today 22 schools operate within this model in 19 cities across the country.

ABOUT CRISTO REY:

- The average income of a Cristo Rey family is \$35,581.
- 70% of the cost of student education is earned through the Corporate Internship Program (CIP).
- 99% of Cristo Rey seniors have been accepted to at least one college in the last seven years
- 86% of Cristo Rey students have graduated from or are currently in college.