



THE COLLEGE CRUSADE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Inspire. Support. Believe.



Putting Caring Adults at the Center of College Readiness

Presenters:

Maria Carvalho

Laurel Shepard

NEBHE Innovation Lab:
College Ready New England
Annual Conference, UMass Boston
March 27, 2009



Who we are

The College Crusade of Rhode Island is the state's most comprehensive college-readiness and scholarship program for middle school and high school students in low-income urban school districts

Our mission is to increase educational and career success for youth in Rhode Island's low-income urban communities





A few facts about us

- We are 20 years old!
- We were one of the first statewide programs in the country to provide long-term mentoring support for students, combined with college scholarships
- We serve about 3,800 middle school and high school students each year
- Since 2001, we have provided over \$20 million in college scholarships to over 2,700 high school graduates





How we got started

- We were founded in 1989 by the RI Commissioner for Higher Education with support from the Governor
- Our original name was The Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education
- Seed funding came from the state of RI
- The overall goal was **to increase high school graduation and college-going rates**
- Until 2007, students joined our program in 3rd grade and stayed through 12th grade – now they join in 6th grade

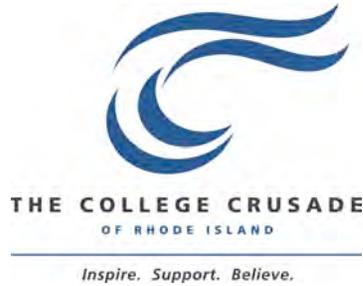
Ongoing innovation

- Our original outreach to 3rd graders for 10 years of college readiness was completely new
- Over time, we moved from a mentoring model to a service delivery model



And today...

- We are now wholly Advisory centered – students receive programs and services directly from our highly trained Advisors, who are based in the schools and who form relationships with students over a long period of time



Our program today

- We believe that **the consistent involvement of caring adults** helps young people overcome economic and educational disadvantages
- We combine the steady, nurturing presence of caring adults with year-round programs and services that focus on
 - Academic enrichment
 - Personal and social development
 - Career exploration and awareness
 - Preparation for college



Our distinctive Advisory

College Crusade Advisors:

- Deliver our highly interactive college-readiness programs directly to students, as well as offer guidance and personal support
- Connect students to a rich array of services that we have developed specifically for them and that our entire team supports
- Share more of their personal experience in guiding students than would be appropriate for school employees
- Provide a seamless advisory approach over seven years as students transition from middle school to high school

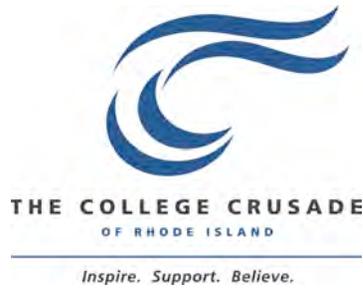


More about our Advisors

Our Advisors share these qualities:

- Recent college graduate
- Ability to relate to adolescents and experience working with youth
- Ability to nurture and to set limits
- Ability to multitask, high energy
- Knowledge of public education systems, community resources, and college access information
- Commitment to core values of respect, integrity, and collaboration
- A background similar to that of our students





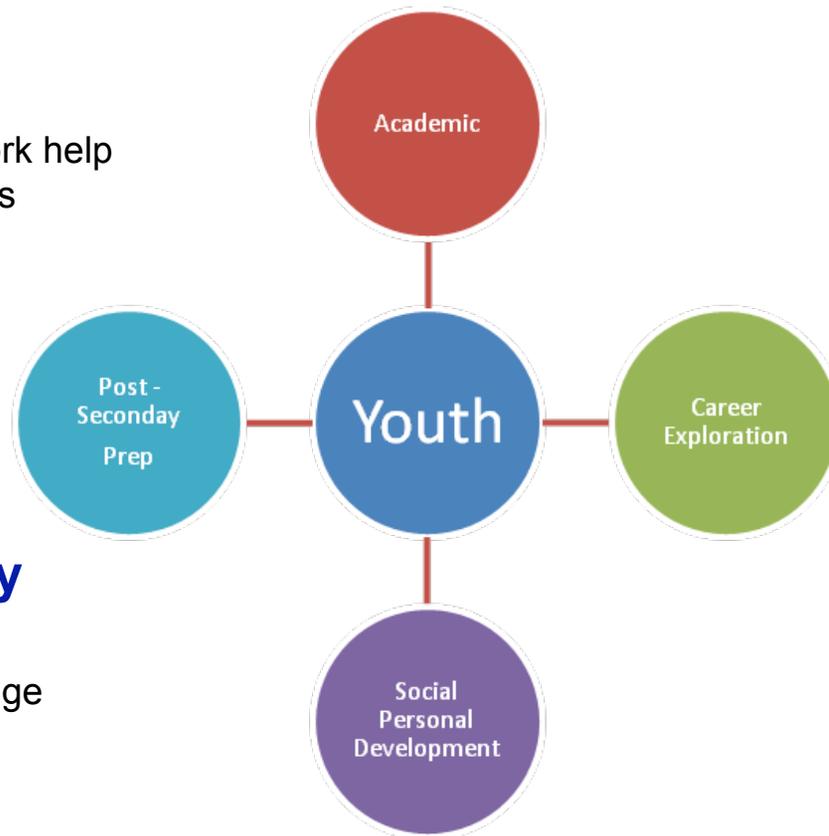
Our programs & services

Academic Enrichment

Tutoring and homework help
 Study skills workshops
 Saturday Academy
 (academic support program)

Postsecondary Preparation

Early college knowledge
 College visits
 MyRoad
 SAT test preparation



Career Exploration and Awareness

Career visits
 Guest speakers
 Career day conference
 Career interest inventory

Social and Personal Development

Crusade Adventure & Academic Program
 School transition activities
 Summer camps
 Mentoring
 Community service

Two memorable moments

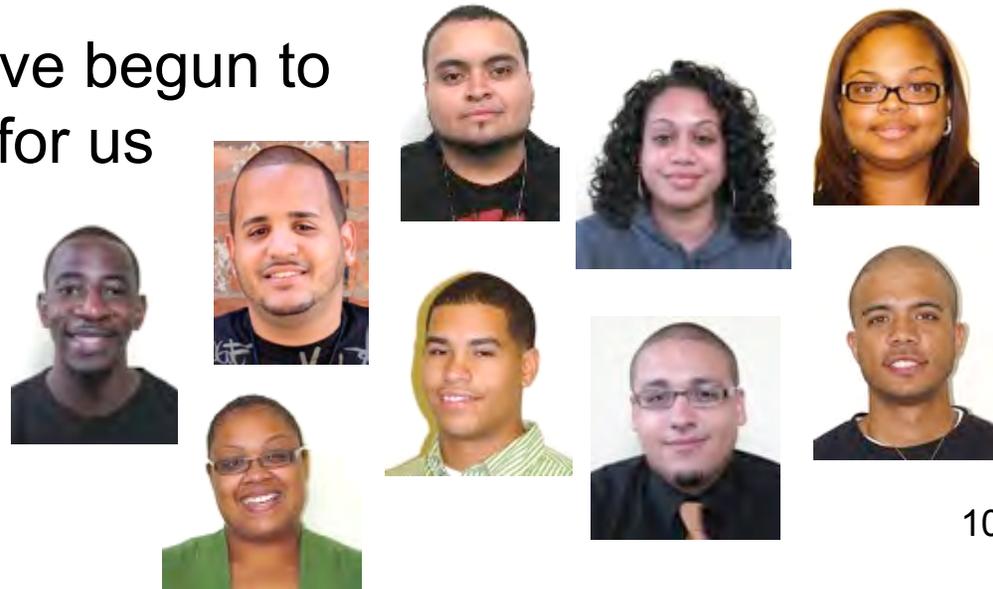
- We were honored at the White House in 1998!

In connection with the launch of GEAR UP, President Bill Clinton recognized us as a leader in the college access movement



- Former Crusaders have begun to come back and work for us

Dozens of our Advisors, program instructors, and volunteer mentors were Crusaders themselves





Our base of support

- The strategy behind our formation in 1989 was economic – the Governor and legislature agreed that **increasing student access to college was vital for the state's economic future**
- Since 1998 we have received major funding from the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)
- We also receive support from the state of Rhode Island and from private corporations, foundations, and individuals



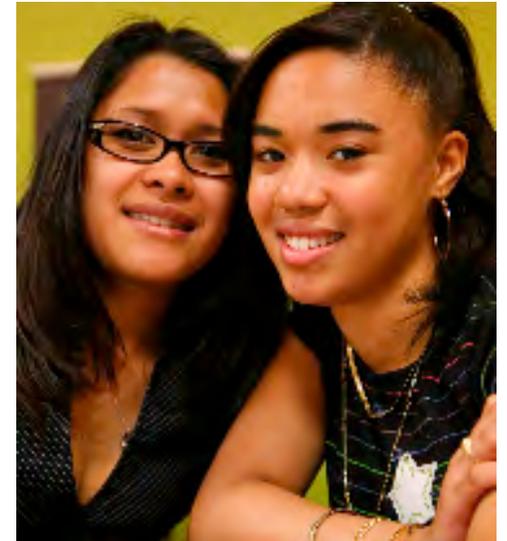
How stakeholders benefit

- Students receive high-quality college-readiness programs that help them succeed in school and prepare for college
- Families learn how to support children who are often the first generation to attend college
- Schools benefit from our enrichment work with students and from our college-access resources
- Universities & colleges benefit from an applicant pool that is ready for higher education
- Rhode Island gains a more-educated workforce



Program sustainability

- We currently have about 40 staff members – half of whom are full-time Advisors located directly in schools
- Over 20 years, we have demonstrated value, flexibility, and resilience through difficult economic cycles
- We are closely aligned with the state’s educational reform strategy and produce results for students cost effectively



Challenges we face

- The strain on RI public resources caused by the economic downturn threatens our budget
- As a pilot project in college readiness, we were out in front of state reform and have not yet been integrated into the system
- Our students move around a great deal and are difficult to keep track of



Readiness for college

- A “college ready” student is prepared **academically and socially** to gain admission to and complete post-secondary education
- GEAR UP college-readiness objectives drive the design of our programs and services – **sample objective**
- We also follow David Conley’s research on college readiness
- Ultimately, readiness = high school graduation and college-going rates

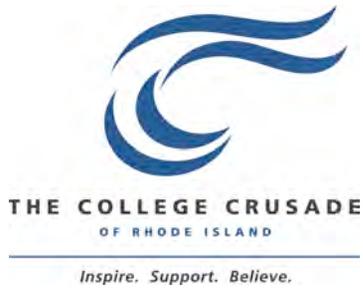


Program feedback

We collect formative feedback from:

- School administrators in the four urban districts where we operate (Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket)
- Students who participate in programs
- Parents of our students
- Rhode Island Department of Education (grade reports and PSAT, SAT, and NECAP scores)
- Partner organizations who provide programs and services for our students



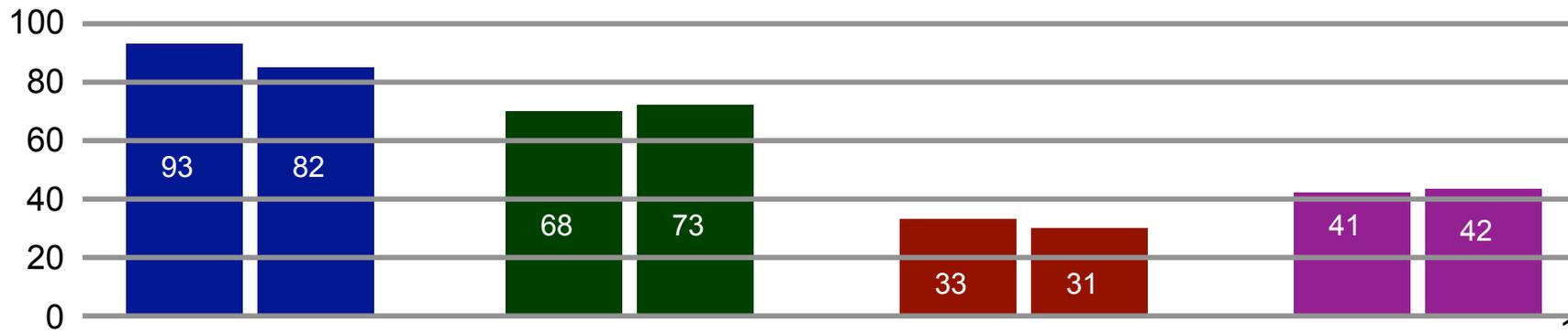


Demographics

Student income level and minority status

For every 100 students:

Crusaders	RI urban districts	All RI students	Nationwide
93 qualify for free or reduced lunch	68 qualify for free or reduced lunch	33 qualify for free or reduced lunch	41 qualify for free or reduced lunch
82 are minorities	73 are minorities	31 are minorities	42 are minorities



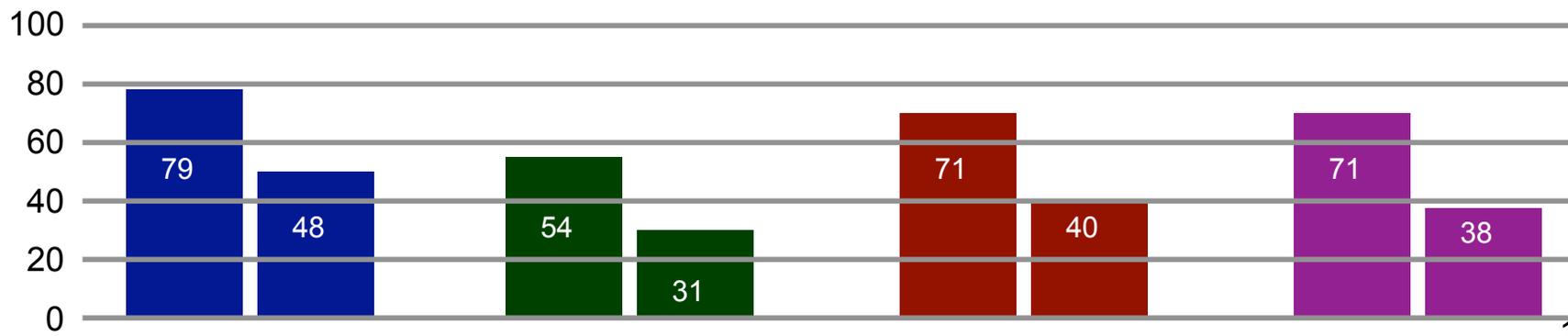


Program impact

Graduation and college-going rates 2006-2007

For every 100 students who enter 9th grade:

Crusaders	RI urban districts	All RI students	Nationwide
79 graduate on time	54 graduate on time	71 graduate on time	71 graduate on time
48 go right on to higher education	31 go right on to higher education	40 go right on to higher education	38 go right on to higher education



District costs

Annual per-pupil costs for RI urban districts:

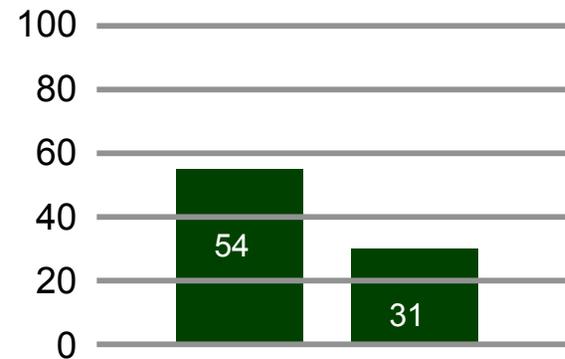
\$13,623

Per-pupil
expense

=

RI urban districts

54 graduate on time
31 go right on to higher
education





We are cost-effective

Value added by The College Crusade:



Per-pupil expense

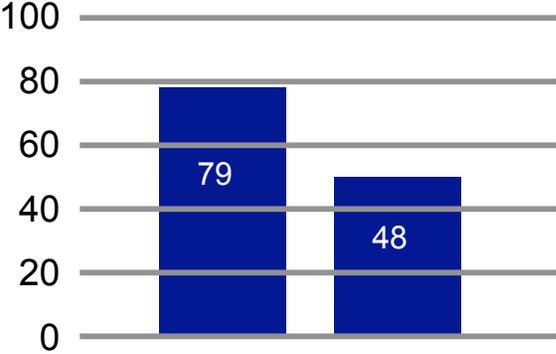
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Annual cost per Crusader

=

Crusaders
79 graduate on time
48 go right on to higher education



Our secret of success

Caring adults make the difference – the more time students spend with our Advisors and participating in our programs, the better they do!

Last year, compared to Crusaders who did not graduate on time, Crusaders who graduated on time and went right on to college:

- Spent 5.5 times more hours with our high school Advisors
- Spent twice as much time in our college-readiness programs and services



Looking ahead

The College Crusade will

- Continue to coordinate our college-readiness programs with schools as they begin to implement state reforms
- Advocate for timely implementation of school reforms
- Begin to institutionalize what we have learned within the state's educational system





Thank you!

Questions?

