

## The Secrets of Success in 2014

*Graduating Crusaders share advice about how to achieve big goals*



**Estefania Clavijo:**  
"Enjoy high school but not too much. Take as many advanced classes as you can."



**Nathan Mensah:**  
"Don't be afraid to try new things. Don't be discouraged by failure."

Get more advice on page 3!



**Jennifer Kalbourji:**  
"Focus. If you start out strong it's easier to stay strong than if you slack and then try to make it up. Make sure to find really good friends."



**Rolando Clavijo:**  
"Stay on task. Always ask for help. Never save anything for the last minute."



**Christian Nunez:**  
"Dominate school. Go all in. Set a high standard at the start so when things get tough you have accomplishments to hold onto."

## Congratulations to our 1000 Hour Club for 2014!

The 1000 Hour Club recognizes Crusaders who have high levels of participation in our programs since sixth grade. On June 3, members of our 1000 Hour Club received certificates of honor at the **Rhode Island State House** as part of our GEAR UP Day celebration. Congratulations to everyone for your dedication and commitment to achieving your postsecondary goals. Your hard work shows!

► **Crusaders with more than 1000 hours of participation:**

**Estefania Clavijo**, grade 12  
Shea Senior High School, 1547 hours

**Rolando Clavijo**, grade 12  
Shea Senior High School, 1235 hours

**Henry Flores**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1230 hours

**Nathan Mensah**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1226 hours

**Arianna Davey**, grade 10  
Shea Senior High School, 1180 hours

**Jennifer Kalbourji**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1149 hours

**Ariel Davey**, grade 10  
Shea Senior High School, 1125 hours

**Rafael Perez**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1103 hours

**Erika Carter**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1087 hours

**Malik Gomes**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1008 hours

**Chris Miranda**, grade 12  
Blackstone Academy, 1007 hours

**Inspire.  
Support.  
Believe.**

**Thank You:**

We are grateful to these generous donors for recent gifts in support of our students: Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; Cavanagh Company; Cox Charities Northeast; Harry M., Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund; Johnson & Wales University; Nellie Mae Education Foundation; NewportFed Charitable Foundation; Rhode Island Foundation; Taco/The White Family Foundation; Textron Charitable Foundation; and Weybosset Research & Management.

**Inside:**

Scenes from our Crusader scrapbook and more advice from seniors.

**On the web:**

For all the latest news: [www.thecollegecrusade.org/blog](http://www.thecollegecrusade.org/blog)

**Celebrating our 25th anniversary**



# Scenes from our Crusader scrapbook



## A message from the President

Dear Crusaders and families,

As you review the advice that fills up this issue of CruNews – advice from other Crusaders who are just like you – think carefully about your own future plans and the progress you are making toward going to college and having a productive career. Be certain to write down all your goals, both long term and short term, and consider the progress you are making. Remember, your plans should be based on your dreams for your life, so dream big! But dreams are not enough unless you work every day to fulfill them. Read carefully what these other Crusaders are telling you from their experience. Each suggestion should speak to you in some way.

There is an old saying: “You can’t undo the past.” If you are not satisfied with how your school year went, begin again. Get more involved with our programs. The next school year is only ten weeks away. If you were pleased with your accomplishments this year, push yourself even harder and always strive for self-improvement. We are here to help you, so use us as a resource for achieving your goals and realizing your dreams.

Sincerely yours,

*Todd D. Florenty*  
President & CEO

## Family Engagement Newsbytes

Crusade families are participating in our **16 Summers** program, nutrition workshops from **IronWill Kids**, and August **college visits**. Come to our Family Fun Day in the park on Sunday 8-31!



Above, the Crusade robotics team, a.k.a. **Elite Machinez**, gets ready for the state competition in February. At front from left are **Nataly Cruz, Andy Chao, Randy Urena, Evelyn Lopez, and Emely Dilone**. At back from left are **Martin Gbadebo, Kevin Aldana, Stephany Cruz, Rene Colato, Caleb Duplan, Jamie Vargas**, and coach **Tempestt Burrell**.



At top right, Crusaders show their high-participation certificates: **Christopher Dauda**, Times2 Academy; **Katie Palencia**, Nathanael Greene Middle School; and **Melissa Esteban** with Advisor **Olivia Mansion**, Segue Institute for Learning. Above, middle school Crusaders at our **CAAP** program stick together in a teamwork game called **Dragon's Tail**. At right, Crusaders from Blackstone Academy pose for **GEAR UP Day** at the State House in June: at front are **Igor DosSantos-Monteiro** and **Stephanie Alicea**; in the middle are **Sheila Franco, Alejandro Osorio-Ramirez, Charis Mitchell, and Nathan Mensah**; in the back are **Calvin Hung, Dijanira Tavares**, and Advisor **Nazeli Avagyan**. At below right, high school Crusaders **Katie Ventura, Bryan Carranza, and Monica Almonte** hold up their **Graduation Challenge Certificates** during our **Choices** program in February.



# Advice You Need:

## Crusade seniors offer more secrets to success

Continued from page 1



**Alexandria Alexieff:**  
"High school is real. It starts the day you walk in. I wish someone had told me that your grades count from the very beginning."



**Darwin Salazar:**  
"Pick the right group of friends. You tend to grab attributes from them. Look for people who have the same ambitions as you."



**Crisanta Martins:**  
"When you get to your senior year, don't get distracted by other people's success. Place your hands on your ears and develop tunnel vision."



**Abhishek Maharjan:**  
"Have a goal for grades, for who your friends are. Think about what you want to have at the finish line."



**Mozart Louis:**  
"Try to learn what your passion is as early as you can. You can make an impact on your community faster. You don't have to wait till you get older to do great things."



**Brandon Garcia:**  
"Do everything on time as quick as possible."



**Jasmine Torres:**  
"Don't leave your stuff until the last minute."



**Ana Zabala:**  
"Don't get lazy. When you come to high school as a freshman you think it's all games, but soon you realize you need good grades to get into a good college."



**Christian Hernandez:**  
"Take advantage of all the Crusade programs, especially the college visits. I got to see so many colleges because of the Crusade. It really opened my eyes."

► Learn more about all these graduating seniors on our website at [www.thecollegecrusade.org/spotlights](http://www.thecollegecrusade.org/spotlights)

## 1000 Hour Club for 2014

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### ► Crusaders with more than 750 hours of participation:

989	Natasha Gaspar	834	Jamie Aguilar
974	Soraya Gomes	829	Ana Zabala
970	Astrid Cruz	825	Liliana Barros-DeLaCruz
944	Dallas Bullard	811	Patricia Adegboyega
943	Vanessa Franco	809	Patience Adegboyega
937	Doris Lopez	808	Christian Hernandez
922	Monica Almonte	805	Itati DeBarros
920	Sebastian Zuleta	797	Belinda Sloan
915	Kevin Guerrero	794	Alejandro Osorio-Ramirez
907	Jelit Martinez	792	Francelly Brito
897	Cindy Jean	791	Moesha Rodrigues
879	German Rodriguez	770	Jeffrey Rosario-Arriaga
856	Gabriel Ramirez	770	Brian Suggs
847	Dijanira Tavares	760	Eliezer Estevez
843	Rene Colato	759	Geneva Yancy
835	Sheila Franco	759	Jissaura Taveras
834	Oluwatoyin Animashaun	757	Samantha Vaz
834	Karla Argueta	756	Isaira Tavares

### ► Special awards for 8th graders:

We also commend these two 8th-grade Crusaders, each of whom has already earned more than 500 hours of participation:

- **Yuvi Cambero**, Nathanael Greene Middle School
- **Coura Fall**, Woonsocket Middle School



## Zia Xiong Classical High School

*Zia Xiong, a graduating senior at Classical High School, gave the student address at our 2014 GEAR UP Day at the State House in June. She spoke about how her experience as a Crusader helped her to grow as a person and succeed as a student. Here is an excerpt from her moving and poetic speech:*

"It is because I am part of The College Crusade that I am who I am now. The silence that prevailed in my voice turned into melodies. The ice in my heart melted and I know, feel, and understand the sorrows and joys of those around me. Through the constant and excellent support that I received from The College Crusade, I have been accepted into many top universities such as Boston College. I can confidently say that I want to pursue a career in teaching. I plan to give back all that I can to The College Crusade by becoming an advisor in the future. But, no matter how much I try, I know that I will never be able to repay The College Crusade for all that it has done for me.

"I could have easily been a tiny seed hiding in the darkness but today I stand a young tree with The College Crusade functioning as my roots, allowing me to grow more than I thought I ever could, allowing me to soak in the sun and feel the warm summer breeze more than I thought I ever could. I am truly lucky. Thank you."



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OF RHODE ISLAND

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*Spring-Summer 2014*

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*The 2nd annual **College Crusade Alumni Career Fair** rocked Saturday Cru Club on April 12, when 24 talented Crusade alums came together at CCRRI Providence to talk with Crusaders about college and career success. Thanks to everyone who made it happen!*

**Families, please keep us notified**

Have you changed your address or phone number, or has your Crusader changed schools? Call (401) 854-5500 or write to [info@thecollegecrusade.org](mailto:info@thecollegecrusade.org).



Thanks to  
our major  
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