



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY
Since 1883

Sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

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Press Release

Mayor Newsom Presents a Certificate to Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) Recognizing the First School in San Francisco to Join the Cristo Rey Network.

Mayor Gavin Newsom presented to ICA a Certificate of Honor recognizing their membership in the Cristo Rey Network slated to begin this fall.

The Cristo Rey schools have a very distinctive feature, the Corporate Work Study Program. Students pursue a college preparatory curriculum 4 days a week. In addition, each student works 5 days a month in an entry-level position at companies like Nike, Texas Instruments and Xerox to help defray the cost of their tuition. There are 1,252 sponsoring companies that hire Cristo Rey students nationwide.

“The Corporate Work Study Program is a unique way to help students afford a Catholic education” says Sister Mary Virginia Leach, President of Immaculate Conception Academy. Employers will pay the school \$32,500 for each job covered by a team of 4 students. That money is divided among the four students and covers a significant portion of their tuition

In addition, the students’ work also helps prepare them for the real world. They learn valuable workplace skills such as communication, problem solving and critical thinking. The job experience also enhances their college applications.

The Cristo Rey Network is very successful. The college acceptance rate of graduates is 99%.



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Mayor Newsom was impressed by what the students shared about the Corporate Work Study Program. “I’m interested in the Corporate Work Study Program and will explore whether we can provide positions at City Hall for ICA students,” Mayor Newsom said. “Times are tough, but the Cristo Rey Network is a proven program.”

Mr. Max Straube and Mr. Jonathan Wang from Corporate Work Study office are currently meeting with businesses in San Francisco to secure these entry level positions. Sixty five jobs are needed.

Sponsored since 1883 by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Immaculate Conception Academy is an all girls Catholic High School in the Mission District.

The Cristo Rey Network is a national association of high schools that provide quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to urban young people who live in communities with limited educational options. Member schools utilize a longer school day and year, academic assistance, and counseling to prepare students with a broad range of academic abilities for college. All students at Cristo Rey Network schools participate in a work study program through which they finance the majority of the cost of their education, gain real world job experience, grow in self-confidence, and realize the relevance of their education.