

## Cristo Rey Boston Receives Johnson Scholarship Foundation Grant to Expand College Counseling Program

**Boston, MA – March 6, 2025** – Cristo Rey Boston High School is pleased to announce that it has received a generous three-year grant from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation to support its College Counseling Program. This funding will directly enhance three key initiatives designed to increase college access and success for Cristo Rey Boston students: the Pre-College Summer Scholars, Pre-College Touring Scholars, and Pre-College Visiting Scholars programs.

With a mission to help people prepare for and obtain a college degree, the Johnson Scholarship Foundation (JSF) provides grants for scholarships and other support to nonprofit organizations that serve students with disabilities, students Indigenous to Canada and the United States, and students from low-income families.

"We are proud to support Cristo Rey Boston High School's College Counseling Program," said Robert A. Krause, CEO of JSF. "We believe education is a powerful force for change—empowering people to become more independent and participate fully in the benefits of our society. Through this important program, Cristo Rey can help more deserving high school students understand their college options and pursue their dreams."

"This grant is transformational for our students," noted Rosemary Powers, President of Cristo Rey Boston. "By expanding opportunities for pre-college experiences, we ensure that every student has the resources, exposure, and support needed to make informed decisions about their higher education journey."

### **Pre-College Summer Scholar**

This initiative will fund student tuition and travel to pre-college summer programs nationwide between junior and senior years. While Cristo Rey Boston students currently participate in a limited number of free programs, this grant will enable 100% of eligible students to attend renowned pre-college experiences such as PROMYS: Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists at Boston University and the Intro to Engineering Program at the University of Notre Dame.

### **Pre-College Touring Scholars**

Expanding beyond local college tours already available to all grades 9 through 12 students, the initiative will fund out-of-state travel for a select cohort of academically qualified seniors to visit potential colleges during the summer before their senior year. These visits will help students explore best-fit colleges and strengthen their application decisions with firsthand experience.

### **Pre-College Visiting Scholars**

For students who receive college admission and financial aid offers, this initiative will provide funding for travel to visit prospective campuses during the spring of their senior year. Understanding that many Cristo Rey students consider colleges outside New England, this program will ensure that students and families feel confident in their enrollment decisions. Students will work closely with their families, college counselors, and admissions offices to develop personalized visit agendas accompanied by their Cristo Rey college counselors. Students will submit reflection essays detailing their experiences and key takeaways after their visits.

These initiatives align with Cristo Rey Boston's commitment to its three core pillars: **college readiness, access, and success**. The program's impact will be measured through first-year college enrollment and the correlating six-year graduation rates. Cristo Rey Boston draws inspiration from Cristo Rey New York High School and Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, which invested heavily in similar initiatives and achieved first-year college enrollment rates nearing 100%, with college completion rates of 69% and 64%, respectively.

While Cristo Rey Boston's current metrics exceed national averages for low-income students, the school remains steadfast in its goal: **100% of students enrolling in and graduating from college**.

The Johnson Scholarship Foundation's investment will ensure Cristo Rey Boston students can make well-informed college decisions and thrive in their postsecondary education.