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## **Cristo Rey Network approves a Cristo Rey School for Des Moines**

The Diocese of Des Moines learned in late September that it has been fully certified by the Cristo Rey Network to establish a Cristo Rey School in the Des Moines metro area. The final steps in the feasibility process of establishing the college preparatory school are to identify funding and select a site for the school that will serve low-income children.

“The willingness of the Des Moines greater metropolitan community to come forward and offer its help to bring this dream closer to reality for our young people is truly impressive and heartwarming,” said Bishop Richard Pates. “As the Diocese of Des Moines celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are looking forward to the future needs of our children. It is clear to me that providing a college preparatory education for children – many of whom struggle to finish high school let alone go on to college – will benefit the entire community.”

A Cristo Rey High School is a college preparatory high school in the Catholic tradition exclusively for students whose families meet the income guidelines for free or reduced price meals. The school is open to and respectful of all faiths, and utilizes a unique work-study model so that the students earn the majority of their tuition by job-sharing entry-level, clerical jobs at local businesses. Students get an excellent, college prep education and exposure to the corporate world. Businesses have motivated, college-bound students performing work necessary to the business. The 24 schools around the country had a graduation rate of 96% for the class of 2010. All graduates from this class were accepted to at least one college.

A business can work with the school’s work-study program by becoming a Corporate Sponsor. Corporate Sponsors agree to hire a team of students through the work-study program (similar to a temp agency) to fill one entry-level, clerical type position. The businesses in Des Moines who have committed to being the first Corporate Sponsors of Cristo Rey in Des Moines are:

1. Hy-Vee
2. Bank of the West
3. Ruan
4. Casey’s Corporation
5. ITA Group

(more)

Cristo Rey...add 1

6. Homesteaders Life
7. Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
8. IMT Group
9. Federal Home Loan Bank
10. Jacobson Companies
11. Bankers Trust
12. Des Moines Water Works
13. St. Jude's Enterprises
14. GuideOne Insurance
15. Mercy Medical Center
16. Sammons Financial Services
17. Employee & Family Resources
18. Baker Group
19. Merit Resources
20. Iowa Workforce Development
21. Principal Financial
22. Meredith
23. Iowa Health Des Moines
24. Iowa Health Home Care
25. Wells Fargo