



# THE MESSENGER

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## ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATORS AND CRCP STUDENTS BREAK BREAD



**CRCP students with Illinois State Legislators**

On December 7, 2005, sixteen CRCP students had the distinct opportunity to share conversation and breakfast with members of the Illinois General Assembly. In a reception sponsored by the CRCP, students from the four academic institutions and 12 Illinois State Senators and Representatives gathered on CSU's campus where program leaders and students recognized the support of the Illinois General Assembly for the Chicagoland Regional College Program.

Dr. Elnora D. Daniel, CSU president, acknowledged the impact of the leadership role of President Jones in saying, "CRCP's growth has been realized, in no small part, as a result of the support provided by the

Illinois General Assembly, under the leadership of Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Jr."

Illinois Senate President, Emil Jones, Jr., presented the program idea to Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich 3 years ago. A strong proponent of higher education, President Jones addressed students at the breakfast, saying, "It's our duty to find the resources to help young people because they are the future leaders of this great state and country."

CRCP student Johnny Brown, a CSU student, echoed



**CRCP student Johnny Brown addresses the audience**

similar sentiments in his comments to the audience. "Without the program, I would not have been able to go to college right after high school. I probably would have had to sit out a semester to work and may not ever have gotten back to school," said Brown.

Attending the event hosted by CRCP Executive Director, Dr. Genevieve Lopardo, Dr. Daniel, Dr. Vernon O. Crawley, President MVCC, and John P. O'Neill III, UPS, were several state legislators. They included State Representatives Monique Davis, William Davis, Connie Howard, Kevin McCarthy, David Miller, Robert Rita and Eddie Washington, and State Senators Jacqueline Collins, Kimberly Lightford, Edward Maloney and Kwame Raoul.

If you're serious about college, we're serious about paying for it.

1-866-501-CRCP

www.crcprogram.com



**CRCP staffer, Servelure McMath with Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Jr.**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Genevieve Lopardo, Ph.D. Executive Director

The Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP) is a partnership between higher education and business. The charter education partners in the CRCP are Chicago State University and Moraine Valley Community College; the charter business partner is UPS in Hodgkins, Illinois. In 2005, two new education partners came on board: Morton College in Cicero, Illinois, and Prairie State College

in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Recently, the Executive Council of the CRCP approved our newest education partner: Olive-Harvey College,

one of the city colleges located on the far south side of Chicago. Thus, CRCP students may now elect to attend one of four community colleges: Moraine Valley Community College, Morton College, Olive-Harvey College, or Prairie State College. Additionally, students may elect to attend Chicago State University, a four-year university with graduate programs. All of the colleges in the CRCP are approved by the appropriate state agencies; this means all of the schools are accredited. As well, programs in the schools are also approved by the appropriate professional associations. Accreditation and approval are very important criteria in the selection of a school by students. These criteria ensure the colleges are held to the highest academic standards by state agencies and accrediting bodies. The CRCP, after all, is an educational program.

NOT "TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE"

Here it is in a nutshell. College students attend one of five area colleges part-time and work at night part-time at the UPS ground packaging facility in Hodgkins, Illinois. Why? To have their classes, books and related fees paid by the Chicagoland Regional College Program. For most, that would be reason enough- the opportunity to avoid tuition payments, perhaps loans and debt. However, there's more! Participants also receive transportation assistance, individual support from CRCP staff and UPS supervisors, and can qualify for up to \$4,000 annually in rental assistance. Hold on, there's more. For those who are successful academically, semester and graduation bonuses add to the program benefits while those who persist, earn milestone bonuses. So, now you understand why so many say, "It's too good to be true." It's a reality that has been in existence since

July 2003, and there are approximately 400 current student committed to making their college dreams a reality through the CRCP. Through five great academic institutions, students have the opportunity to earn four levels of education in the CRCP; a career certificate, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree or a master's degree in their choice of fields. Participation in the CRCP is open to persons of any age who are either hired as part-time package handlers or are currently part-time supervisors on the night (10pm-3am) or sunrise (4am-9am) shifts. Those hired as package handlers also have the opportunity to pursue promotions to part-time supervisory positions. And yes, enrollment is currently open for summer and fall academic semesters! Don't wait. Get started now!

Requirements

- High school diploma or GED
- Accepted at a CRCP partner college
- Apply for financial aid
- Hired by UPS in Hodgkins
- 17 years old or older
- Work 10 pm—3 am or 4 am—9 am
- Successful CRCP/UPS interviews

Benefits

- Paid tuition, books, fees
- Allowance for approved housing
- Transportation allowance
- Cash bonuses for good grades
- Weekly paycheck
- Medical benefits
- Weekends and holidays off
- Student support services team

Getting Started

1. Register to attend an upcoming Open House:  
**CALL: (866) 501-CRCP (2727) OR VISIT WWW.CRCPPROGRAM.COM**
2. Attend an Open House
3. Schedule CRCP and UPS interviews
4. Receive notification within 2 weeks
5. Attend orientation
6. Start work and register for classes



ONLY THE COMMITTED SURVIVE: THE CRCP PIONEERS



CRCP pioneers at Academic Awards Breakfast

It was a hot day in July 2003, when the first students signed agreement forms entering into a partnership that would open the door to an affordable education and a challenging college and employment experience. Many would fall by the wayside, unable or unwilling to make the sacrifice to reach the goal. Those who remain, are the CRCP Pioneers. Of

the 307 who began during the first year's cohort group, 50 are still in the program. They were the first ones to say, "Wow! What a pro-

gram. What an opportunity." They enrolled at CSU or MVCC, laced up their boots and headed for the UPS warehouse facility in Hodgkins. There they were trained on loading and unloading trailers, a job many continue today. These students recognized what many adults know today; to get ahead, you need an education. To get an education, you probably need a job. In stepped the CRCP, the answer to both dilemmas.

Many CRCP pioneers qualify for academic awards. Pictured left to right: Anthony Roberts, Daniel Johnson, Myriam Munoz, Nicole Blanchard and Christopher Smith. Each of them received Academic Awards at the January breakfast where the CRCP awarded over \$100,000 in bonuses to successful students.

SERIOUS ABOUT COLLEGE



Ephriam Martin

**School:** MVCC

**Major:**  
Criminal Justice

**CRCP Start:**  
October 2004

**What's surprising:**  
More help is offered than I

expected.

**Why I'm successful:**

Because I want it! I found people who could help me and asked for help when I needed it.

**Previous jobs:**

Contractor, waiter, landscaper, restaurant manager and UPS package handler.

**Current job:**

I am a training supervisor at UPS. I make sure my people have all the skills/tools for success at UPS.

**Academic goal:**

To stay on the President's list.

**About me:**

I plan to enter law school within the next 3 years.



Esteban Rodriguez

**School:** Morton College

**Major:**  
Music Education

**CRCP Start:**  
December 2005

**Career goals:**  
I wanted to be a music teacher because I play a couple of instruments but I've been having second thoughts about that.

**Why CRCP works:**

Because my school work comes first. I work at night, sleep all morning until about noon and go to class at 3.

**Greatest challenge:**

Getting used to sleeping that late.

**Best advice for new students:**

Schedule your time wisely.

**About me:**

I am the first in my family to attend college.



## RECRUITERS GET THE WORD OUT



Cleo Downing shares the stage with Reverend James T. Meeks

Willing to travel anywhere within the state where there are adults interested in attending college, the season's recruitment efforts took CRCP recruiters to churches, legislative offices, community organizations, high schools and to central Illinois. In February, we attended our largest event ever- an assembly for high school members of the Salem Baptist Church of Chicago. Under

the leadership of Pastor, State Senator, James T. Meeks, hundreds of students attended a Friday night event that focused on educational success in high school and college preparation. Cleo Downing presented a short introduction on the CRCP to seniors and their parents and invited guests to attend a future open house to learn more. In January, the CRCP provided bus transportation for a group of Salem's members to attend an open house where several applied for admission to the program.

The weekend of February 17-18 took CRCP recruiter, Cleo Downing, recruitment and marketing director, Servalure McMath, and CSU admissions counselor, Nicholas Smith, to Mt. Vernon, Illinois for our second annual participation in the Heartland Black College

Expo. During the fair, area students and parents visited with representatives from several HBCUs to learn admission requirements.

CRCP also networked with leaders from various community-based organizations and began a collaboration to take the program on the road again.



Omar Juarez at a recent CSU event

## GREAT SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

### THE SITE DIRECTOR

Imagine that you are a new student just out of high school and you want to go to college, but have limited funds. While taking the bus one day, you see an advertisement for the Chicagoland Regional College Program, and decide to attend an open house. There you learn about the benefits of the program if you are willing to work unusual hours as a package handler for UPS.

Excited and motivated about making the best of your opportunity to go to college

while limiting your debt, you wonder which classes to take or how to structure your time to study after work. Then the semester begins, and you find yourself having problems filling out a financial aid form or needing help to prepare for your first exam. You start to panic, feeling anxious, you ask yourself, "Where do I go for help?" The answer is your CRCP site director.

Site directors are available at all of our partner schools to assist students with a wide range of situations that could negatively affect their educational progress. There is no typical day in the life of a site director as everyday brings new challenges. Some days, according to Doug Peterson, MVCC assistant site director, "We might be helping a student find a math tutor because he or she is anxious about a test coming up, while other days we are assisting students resolve time management conflicts."

Debby Blatzer, MVCC site director, says "The most challenging part of the job is motivating students to stay in school and make good grades." All in all, CRCP site directors are an invaluable first line resource to the CRCP student. They offer academic support and proactive assistance to those students balancing a very demanding work and school schedule.

*Doug Peterson and Debby Blatzer*

### THE STUDENT RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE



CRCP Site Directors



Nicole Champ and UPS night shift SRRs



As a student relations representative (SRR), our primary responsibility is to ensure the overall success (school, work, and home) of the student. Starting the moment students enter the doors of UPS for their first day of work, the SRR greets them, collects information, and resolves any potential issues the student may have. The SRR makes it a point to ensure the student understands both the complexity of the job as well as the difficult hours they will be working.

Making daily contact with each student helps to build an effective work relationship and an atmosphere of open communication. The

SRR encourages students to seek the overall vision for their lives, i.e., why they are going to school coupled with working at UPS; what is the outcome they are looking for; what do they want to do in life after attaining their degree.

The SRR makes sure each student understands the tools for success as an employee at UPS and what is expected of them. Also, the SRR helps to direct the student in the right direction or to the right person for academic issues.

*Nicole Champ, UPS Supervisor*

## NOT YOUR TYPICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS



**MVCC student, Ella Dillard and assistant site director, Doug Peterson**

A generation ago, typical college freshmen were 18 years old, had just graduated from high school and at some point during the middle of August, packed their belongings in the family car to make the trek to college. They shared,

what was then a dorm room, now called a residence hall room, with someone they had never met before. My, how times have changed. Fast forward to the new millennium and the typical college experience is vastly different.

Each of our collegiate institutions concurs that their typical student is in their middle twenties. Today, adult learners are now recognized as the “non-traditional student.”

The CRCP is no different. In a September 2005 survey, to which 35% of CRCP students responded, 66% of program participants were between the ages of 18-22. Today, the CRCP is attracting increasingly higher numbers of more mature students. Age is not a factor in determining a student’s success. Students who can balance the rigors of a physically demanding part-time job with college and their personal life is welcome to apply.

### HERE’S WHAT NON-TRADITIONAL CRCP STUDENTS ARE SAYING.

Nigerian born, **Udeme Ikpe, 31**, began his UPS career when he relocated to the U.S. six years ago. A part-time supervisor, he is pursuing his masters degree in human resources management at CSU and looks forward to furthering his career at UPS.

On the advantage of being a little older, “I’ve already been in college.

I know how to prioritize. I have experience.” His advice to other non-traditionals, “It’s never too late to achieve one’s dreams. Even if you’re not 18, you can still make it, one step at a time.”

**Barbara Pietraszek**, of Hickory Hills, married with 3 children, ages, 18, 17 and 6, joined the program a year ago when she began studies at MVCC. On balancing family, school and the job, Pietraszek says she “doesn’t have as much time as a single person. It’s not as easy.” But adds, “It’s worth it to be able to go to school to challenge myself. My family helps me, especially my daughters who are good on the computer.”

**Julie Crowley**, a CRCP pioneer, has maintained an “A” grade point average for most of her program tenure while balancing family life with 3 children ages, 18, 17 and 9. A senior at CSU, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business marketing, Crowley’s belief in the program is evidenced by the fact that her son Michael, 18, joined the program last fall. Crowley has chosen not to pursue advancement to a supervisory position and says that “The CRCP program allows me to go to school and work without taking precious time away from my children. I’m still home in the morning and after school and that has always been important to me.”

**Angela Ceriale**, a 24 year old single mother from Crestwood, is proud of her success in the CRCP. She is pursuing an associate’s degree at MVCC in office assistance and applications, and says she plans her classes around the activities of her 3 and 5 year old children and plans her schedule a semester in advance. While she attends classes, her children are enrolled in the day care center at Moraine Valley which she rates as excellent. Ceriale advises those interested in the CRCP to “set your goal and get it done any way you can. My goal is to make a better life for my children, and the way to do that is to get my education and get a better job.”

## Five Great Colleges/One Great Corporation

### The Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP)

is a unique combination of education and employment designed to provide college students with a way to earn a college degree virtually debt-free. This is achieved through our many benefits.

#### Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED
- Accepted at a CRCP partner college
- Hired by UPS in Hodgkins
- 17 years old or older
- Work 10 pm-3am or 4 am-9am
- Successful CRCP/UPS interview

#### Benefits:

- Paid tuition, books, fees
- Allowance for approved housing
- Transportation allowance
- Cash bonuses for good grades
- Weekly paycheck
- Medical benefits
- Weekends and holidays off
- Student support services team

### Open House Schedule

May 9, 2006	6:30 p.m.
May 17, 2006	5:00 p.m.
May 24, 2006	5:00 p.m.

### Open House Location

UPS Employment Center  
79th Willow Springs Road  
Hodgkins, IL

### Contact Us

Call a recruiter:  
(708) 839-8350  
General office:  
(708) 839-8355

### Acknowledgements

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**Chicago State University**—At charter partner, CSU, students pursue a bachelor's or master's degree. Affordable, located on the south side of Chicago and easily accessible by public transportation, CSU offers residence housing for CRCP students enrolled in any of the four participating colleges.



**Moraine Valley Community College**—At CRCP's charter community college in Palos Hills, Illinois, students pursue career certificates or associate's degrees at one of the most modern community colleges in the state. Two-thirds of CRCP students are enrolled at MVCC.



**Olive-Harvey College**—With a focus on impacting the community it serves, Olive-Harvey endeavors to develop partnerships with area businesses to provide academic and occupational programs that equip students with the necessary skills to advance their careers.



**Morton College**—New to the CRCP for fall 2005, Morton College, Cicero, Illinois, boasts a new library and technological advancements that include flat screen TVs throughout the campus that keep students apprised of important information and happenings.



**Prairie State College**—Officially on board for fall 2005, Prairie State College is laying the infrastructure to admit CRCP students in spring 2006. Located in Chicago Heights, PSC offers an intimate college setting for students living in the south suburbs.



**United Parcel Service**—Frequently noted by *Forbes* magazine as one of the top employers in America, UPS in Hodgkins is the largest UPS ground packaging facility in the nation. CRCP students work as part-time package handlers with the opportunity to be promoted to part-time supervisors on the night or sunrise shifts.

### Chicagoland Regional College Program

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