



# Catholic School Connections

Communicating Our Faith, Education and Service

## 3.2 million given in Scholarships

Richmond Diocese Catholic school students were awarded over 3.9 million dollars in needs-based scholarships, to date, in the 2015-2016 academic year. Parish Sharing provided over 1.6 million, McMahon-Parater awarded over \$800,000 in tuition assistance and over 1.2 million in EISTC funds. The Segura Initiative provided Latino students with over \$140,000. And, each Diocesan Catholic school continued their long tradition of awarding students significant tuition assistance. In addition, Catholic schools offer various tuition discounts for Catholic students and for families with multiple children enrolled.

Richmond Diocese Catholic schools have stabilized enrollment in recent years and the increase in tuition assistance has clearly made an impact on parents' decisions to participate in this important ministry of the Catholic Church. Thank you all for your faith-filled generosity making needs-based scholarships possible.

[For more information on Tuition Assistance, click here.](#)

## Bishop DiLorenzo Wants the Word Out. Cristo Rey "Feasibly" Coming to Richmond.

The Cristo Rey Network, together with Bishop DiLorenzo and his appointed committee, will be conducting a feasibility study to determine if Richmond is a viable location for a Cristo Rey high school. The study begins with a thorough assessment of need and interest in the community to be served and determines if the school will be sustainable, both financially and academically, for the long-term.

The Cristo Rey Network offers affordable education to underrepresented youth in communities where there are limited quality options. Cristo Rey schools employ an innovative Corporate Work Study Program that provides students with real world work experiences in addition to rigorous academics for future college success. Cristo Rey officials work with local companies to find jobs that can be shared by four students. Each student works five full days a month to fund the majority of his or her education. Private donations cover most of the remainder, with roughly 5 percent coming from families.

[For more information on Cristo Rey, click here.](#)

## Cost Savings Dual Enrollment Partnership with Richard Bland College of William and Mary

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond has partnered with the Richard Bland College of William and Mary to offer high school seniors the opportunity to take college courses for credit at their schools. Four Diocesan Catholic High Schools, Blessed Sacrament Huguenot, Peninsula Catholic, Roanoke Catholic, and St. Josephs are currently offering the three credit course, American Government and Politics, this semester at virtually no cost to the student.

The syllabus was developed by Richard Bland Professor Tish Campbell, together, with faculty from the Diocesan High Schools. The second half of the school year will offer Comparative Government and Politics. Dual enrollment courses will transfer to the graduates college of choice without issue.

"While high schools have always offered dual enrollment, this partnership is different in that the cost to the student is minimal. Our goal is to enhance Diocesan Catholic high schools' academic offerings while lowering students future college costs," said Annette Parsons, Chief Education Administrator at the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. "College courses can provide high school students a closer look at their area of academic interest, help demonstrate their ability to handle more difficult coursework and, by accumulating college credits, offer early graduation with considerable cost savings."

## First Graduating Segura Student, Alex Ovalle, Says She is Well Prepared to Pursue a Medical Career



In 2010, Alex Ovalle and her sister Yolanda became the first Segura students by attending Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. "I was terrified of the future. When I was younger, it didn't seem like college would be a possibility for me," said Alex, who graduated from Saint Gertrude High School and is currently attending VCU.

"Catholic school gave me guidance and direction. The curriculum was rigorous and the classes provided more in-depth detail, putting me a step closer to being a general surgeon and helping others in the future."

"Through the Segura program, Alex and Yolanda really wanted to go to Catholic school to share with the other children", said their mother. "The teachers paid so much attention to them. We are so grateful. It is a huge opportunity offered by the Diocese of Richmond."

"Alex is surprised that the university is not hard for her, as she had always heard about college studies. She believes the reason is because of her education through St. Gertrude and Our Lady of Lourdes," said her father, "She feels prepared for college life and new challenges."

The Segura Initiative offers a Catholic education in faith, through financial aid and on-site advocacy, to newly arrived, economically disadvantaged Latino families. Today, Segura serves over 300 students in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Richmond.

[For more information on Segura, click here.](#)