

**The College Crusade  
of Rhode Island**

In May, 120 middle school and high school students from **The College Crusade of Rhode Island** participated in Saturday workshops at the Save the Bay Center at Fields Point in Providence. They explored the Providence River shoreline, learned about watershed ecology, and met some real live Narragansett Bay creatures.

The hands-on workshops were part of an ongoing Saturday program called Cru Club, hosted over the past year at the Harborside Campus of Johnson & Wales University in Providence. Other recent programs for members of The College Crusade featured campus visits to 16 nearby colleges and universities, a Getting to College conference, career fairs and speakers, service learning projects, high school transition activities, and after school peer mentoring and homework clubs.

The College Crusade provides Rhode Island students from low-income urban communities with a caring adult Advisor and free college-readiness programs and services from grade 6 through 12. At a press conference in May, the organization announced that its class of 2007 graduated from high school and went right on to college at much greater rates than their peers in the state's urban schools.

[www.thecollegecrusade.org](http://www.thecollegecrusade.org)

**College Forward**

This summer, seven of **College Forward's** most dedicated students will "pay it forward" by serving as full-time AmeriCorps members with the Austin-based organization.

From June until August, these outstanding students will learn valuable professional skills and earn more than \$1,000 each in Education Awards, while also contributing more than 300 hours of national service to help expand college access for low-income and first-generation students in Central Texas.

Four students (Diana Gomez, Adrian Padilla, Sierra Perez, and Van Winn) will serve as Program Evaluation Coordinators, working closely with program staff to enhance College Forward's after-school curriculum and to plan numerous program events.

Three students (Carolina Hernandez, Diana Luna, and Nick Rayo), all of whom are current "collegians" enrolled in College Forward's innovative college retention program, will serve as College Retention Coordinators. In addition to offering their own tips for succeeding in college, they will assist more than 150 graduating high school seniors with registering for classes, securing financial aid, and finalizing their college orientations and campus housing.

[www.collegeforward.org](http://www.collegeforward.org)



Middle school students from **The College Crusade of Rhode Island** learn about live shellfish during a hands-on workshop at the Save the Bay Center in Providence.



**College Forward** students "Get Things Done" as new AmeriCorps members in the organization's office in Austin, TX — (l to r) **Carolina Hernandez, Nick Rayo, Diana Gomez, Adrian Padilla, Van Winn, Diana Luna and Sierra Perez.**