For nearly a decade, Rosa Correa talked about returning to school. Now, inspired to set a positive example for her daughters, she’s doing something about it.

Rosa learned about an opportunity to take free GED preparation classes at Christopher House in the Belmont-Cragin neighborhood through an off-site partnership with Wright College. She jumped at the chance and is currently enrolled in a GED preparation class, which meets twice a week.

“Finishing my high school diploma is something I want to prove to them that I can do,” Rosa said of her daughters, who are ten and three years old. “My goal is to find a better job and a lot of these jobs require at least a high school diploma or equivalent.”

Christopher House is one of 70 City Colleges Adult Education partners providing access to City Colleges’ free Adult Education classes in high-need neighborhoods across Chicago.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, more than one-third of the Belmont-Cragin community (2010 population: 78,743) has less than a high school diploma and 43 percent “speak English less than very well.”

Christopher House and other community organizations help ease adult learners’ transitions back to the classroom. Christopher House opened a new school and family resource center in Belmont-Cragin in 2013; since opening its new location in Belmont-Cragin, Christopher House and its Adult Education partnership with Wright College has flourished. Alicia Villagomez, Christopher House’s Adult Literacy Manager and Wright College graduate, recruits students for the classes and connects families with additional tutoring and support services provided at the center.

After realizing the opportunities and convenience the program offered, Rosa encouraged her husband Salvador to enroll in an English as a Second Language (ESL) course. “I told my husband, ‘If I’m doing something, let’s make you do something, too, to show our daughters,’” Rosa said. “My 10-year-old tells him, ‘Dad don’t give up’... we are all working together.”

For Rosa and Salvador Correa and their family, bettering their education and career opportunities is now a family affair.

For more information about the Wright College Adult Education program, including free GED and ESL classes, please call 773.481.8821.
Wright’s ‘College to Careers’ Program Prepares Students for the IT Industry

College to Careers is a joint initiative between the City Colleges of Chicago, the City of Chicago and top industry, university and community partners from across the city, designed to help close the skills gap in high-demand industries and prepare students to hit the ground running in further college and careers.

Wilbur Wright College is partnering with international leaders and local companies in the information technology (IT) industry to ensure our students gain the hands-on experience and state-of-the-art education that employers are seeking. Current and future academic pathways in Wright’s College to Careers IT program are:

- Networking Systems and Technology
- Computer Science
- Information Technology

For more information about Wright’s College to Careers program, please contact Mike Davis, Wright College Interim Vice President, mdavis@ccc.edu or 773.481.8182.

Adult Education Partnerships Bring Opportunity to Our Communities

Thank you to the Wright College Adult Education Partners for our Spring 2014 off-site locations in the community. Wright College appreciates the collaboration with the following community partners to increase student access and success in our free ESL and GED preparation classes: Avondale-Logendale School, Christopher House, Darwin School, Erie Neighborhood House, Lloyd Elementary School, Logan Square Neighborhood Association - Funston, Logan Square Neighborhood Association-Monroe, Logan Square Neighborhood Association-Mozart, Logan Square Neighborhood Association-McAuliffe, Lorca Elementary School, Northwest Community Church, Onward Neighborhood House, Providence Family Services, Salvation Army Clybourn Adult Rehabilitation Center, and Stowe Elementary School.
Wright College Exceeds Performance Targets on First Annual Reinvention Scorecard

In 2010, City Colleges of Chicago launched Reinvention, a comprehensive reform effort designed to create a student-centered culture of success driven by data, accountability and transparency. The initiative was driven by City Colleges leaders in concert with task forces made up of students, faculty and staff from the seven colleges, including Wright College. Task force members came together to identify obstacles to student success and formulate strategies to remove those barriers.

Based on its Reinvention goals, City Colleges selected key metrics to assess academic and institutional health and established annual targets in its Five-Year Strategic Plan released in June 2013.

Wright exceeded or met 10 of the 12 FY2013 targets on the Scorecard, including its official graduation rate. The target rate was 12 percent, but the college’s actual rate was 14 percent. This represents an overall graduation rate increase of 75 percent since the launch of Reinvention.

Notably, Wright also exceeded its FY2013 targets for both degrees and certificates awarded. The number of associate degrees awarded increased by 17 percent over FY2012; and since the launch of Reinvention, Wright has nearly doubled the number of degrees awarded. This is a key metric as it captures every student earning a credential, providing a comprehensive representation of the growth rate in the area of student success.

In addition to exceeding our targets for graduation rate and degrees and certificates awarded, Wright also exceeded the following targets: Fall-to-Spring credit student retention, total enrollment, remediation transitions, and full-time students earning 30 credit hours in one year. Wright reached 99 percent of its adult education enrollment target and 95 percent of its goal for part-time students to earn 15 credit hours in one year.

Looking ahead, there is opportunity for improvement and growth within every strategic metric, particularly in all categories of enrollment. Still, since the launch of Reinvention, credit enrollment has increased by 17 percent.

Wright College’s extensive work with the Higher Learning Commission’s Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) supports City Colleges’ Reinvention goals.

Through its participation in AQIP, Wright College systematically reflects upon and implements quality improvement initiatives that are aligned with these goals.

Wright’s successes come as the result of the faculty and staff’s hard work, spirit of continuous improvement, and dedication to student success – a dedication that will help Wright College and its students realize continued improvements in the months and years to come.

To read the entire Wright College FY2013 Reinvention Scorecard, please visit: http://bit.ly/Pogssa.
**City Colleges of Chicago District Update**

**THE NEW MALCOLM X COLLEGE: For the Community, By the Community**

City Colleges of Chicago is building a new 22,000-student-capacity Malcolm X College at the northeast corner of Jackson and Damen. Scheduled to open in 2016, the 544,000 square-foot facility will offer general and adult education programs as well as School of Health Sciences featuring a virtual hospital. Long an educational anchor for the West Side and the City of Chicago as a whole, the new Malcolm X College will strengthen opportunity for residents by further opening the doors to in-demand careers and four-year universities.

The project already is empowering the communities the college serves through its inclusive contracting and jobs program.

**To date, nearly 50 percent of work performed or contracted has been provided by MBE contractors.** More than two-thirds of those MBES are Chicago-based. The level of WBE participation to date is 12 percent, with more than half of those firms being Chicago-based.

**ARCHITECT**
The Architect of Record for this project is the African-American owned and operated firm Moody Nolan, the largest African-American owned architectural firm in Chicago and in the United States. In addition, 84 percent of Moody Nolan’s fee will go to MBE/WBE firms. Nearly 80 percent of the firm’s fee will stay in Chicago in the form of salaries, expenses and contracts.

**FINANCING**
As part of City Colleges of Chicago’s $250 million bond issue to support City Colleges’ Five-Year Capital Plan, which includes Malcolm X College, the finance team was structured with 32 percent MBE and 12 percent WBE participation, including Chicago-based Loop Capital and Cabrera Capital Markets.

**CONSTRUCTION**
The General Contractor (GC) for this project, CMO, is a joint venture consisting of Clark Construction Group-Chicago LLC, McKissack & McKissack Midwest, Inc. (an MBE/WBE firm) and Old Veteran Construction, Inc. (an MBE firm). CMO has committed to exceed CCC’s Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise goals with scheduled subcontractor participation of 28 percent for Minority-owned businesses and 8 percent for Women-owned businesses.

Nearly 57 percent of site preparation work has gone or is contracted to MBE/WBE contractors. Of general contracting worked performed or contracted to date, 42 percent has been performed with MBE and nearly nine percent by WBE firms, for a total of over $56 million. Excavation and steel work have been will be performed by African-American contractors as primes. In addition, 38 percent of mechanical and fire protection work will be conducted by MBE and WBE firms.

A similar commitment to diversity will be applied to future phases of the project.

**COMMUNITY JOBS**
City Colleges does more than just offer construction jobs: we created a free pre-apprentice construction training program that is helping local residents gain the skills they need to get hired on this project and on other construction projects throughout the region. It has also dedicated 120 of the 950 jobs created by the project to qualified local residents.

The types of positions expected to be available include: plumbers, electricians, carpenters, pipe fitters, brick masons, painters, ironworkers, operators, roofers, laborers, and sheet metal workers. CCC is working with Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) and the Urban League to identify applicants for these jobs.

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**To date, 76 percent of total work hours have been performed by minority trade workers, and 75 percent of the hours have been performed by residents within the project community boundaries:** Lake Street and 26th Street, and between California Avenue and Ashland Avenue.

View at the corner of Damen Ave. and Jackson Blvd.

Rendering of City Colleges of Chicago’s $251 million Malcolm X College and School of Health Sciences, set to open in 2016