

EXCITED. EXUBERANT. ENERGETIC.

Dressed for success. Sporting a tie and a can-do attitude. Sound like your typical college students? No, these are our Corporate Work-Study students from Arrupe Jesuit High School. Brimming with

high expectations and youthful optimism, a team of Arrupe students has been working in the Technical Services Department of the Dayton Memorial Library for a second straight year. Yes, they may perform the perfunctory tasks of property stamping materials and inserting detection strips in books, but they also learn the valuable skills of interacting with adult supervisors, completing time sheets, listening to and following instructions, and asking questions. In the end, it is all in a day's work, and a full one at that.



Maribel Lopez pulls periodicals for binding.

James Martínez with Reggie Rivers at a book-signing event on campus.

Beatrice Salazar-Núñez sorts acquisition slips.

Arrupe Jesuit High School, located in the old Holy Family High School building at 44th and Tennyson in Denver, is in its third year and has a contingent of freshmen, sophomore and junior students. In 2007, Arrupe will graduate its first senior class, a major accomplishment for this fledgling institution named after Father Pedro Arrupe, the late Spanish Superior General of the Society of Jesus. The school is modeled after the very successful Cristo Rey High School in Chicago. Like Cristo Rey, the school targets a clientele that is low income yet highly motivated. Students must perform well on standardized tests, have strong grades, must write an entrance essay, undergo an interview, and most importantly, be employable.

The primary difference between schools like Arrupe and Cristo Rey from other high schools is the Corporate Work-Study Program. Arrupe and various businesses team up to provide a positive work experience for the students, which just happens to also provide tuition relief for the school and the students. Arrupe supplies an able-bodied work force and in turn the businesses provide entry-level positions and a salary that is directly deposited into the school's tuition account. A team of four students is placed with each sponsor. Each student works one day a week, Tuesday through Friday, and an alternate one Monday per month. It sounds more complicated than it really is. A well thought out handbook and a calendar keep both students and business sponsors on track.

Keeping four students productively busy for eight hours a day may seem like a lot of work, and it is. That is why the Technical Services Department has teamed up with SPS Distance Learning and split a team. Likewise, the Regis Mail Services and the Copy and Print Center, now in their third year, have split a team. Students are encouraged to remain at a given business for no more than two years, providing them with a variety of work experiences and potentially four very strong letters of reference.

So, if you see a student on campus in business attire, chances are he or she is not a college student off for an interview but an Arrupe student working in one of the offices on campus. Stop and say "Hello." He or she may be part of the Regis University freshmen class that we welcome in 2007.



Janet Lee

Technical
Services
Librarian