



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CRCP Awards \$95,150 in Academic Achievement Bonuses to Students at Two Colleges**

*Students Receive Financial Assistance and Work Part-Time at UPS*

**WILLOW SPRINGS, IL** – More than 170 local college students balancing the demands of part-time work and higher education classroom schedules recently found that staying focused on the job and in the classroom carries a nice bonus – extra cash in their pockets.

The student workers are participants in the Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP), which held ceremonies on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the UPS facility in Hodgkins, IL to award 172 program participants \$95,150 in Academic and Milestone Awards.

Students earned \$350 or \$500 each for meeting the program's grade point average and credit hour requirements while working part-time at UPS in southwest suburban Hodgkins. Eligible students also received Milestone Awards for earning 30 or 60 credits while enrolled in the program.

"The Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP) is a unique program that assists students in fulfilling their educational goals whether they are working toward an associate arts degree, certificate of training, or bachelor's degree," explained Dr. Genevieve Lopardo, CRCP's executive director. "The awards recognize students' academic performance at Chicago State University or Moraine Valley Community College."

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In its second year, the Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP) is an academic-employment partnership among Chicago State University, Moraine Valley Community College and UPS and is open to students of any age. CRCP students get their college tuition, fees and books paid; are provided with transportation assistance; and are eligible for a housing allowance of up to \$4,000 annually, as well as academic bonuses. Finally, a part-time job at UPS helps students earn a virtually debt-free college education.

Chicago Ridge resident, Julie Crowley, a Chicago State University student, has received cash awards for all 3 academic terms. Crowley, a mother of three with a 4.0 GPA, uses part of her award for special activities with her family, which helps to make up for the time she's away.

According to Andre Howard-Bey of Justice, also a three-time recipient and sophomore at Moraine Valley, the academic awards provide "an extra motivator. On top of making progress toward my degree, it's good to know you get extra incentives."

Among the eligibility requirements, students must have a high school degree or equivalent; be accepted for admission at either Chicago State University or Moraine Valley Community College; and successfully complete the CRCP admissions process, which includes pre-enrollment interviews and attendance at an open house. They also must be hired by UPS, where they'll be paid to work part-time as a package handler and receive employment benefits, including health care insurance.

During the month of February, CRCP is holding two open houses at UPS in Hodgkins. Staff members will discuss the program and explain what it takes to enroll. The open house dates are February 8 and February 23 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. To register, call 1-866-501-CRCP (2727) or go to [www.crcprogram.com](http://www.crcprogram.com). Additional open houses will be held each month through August.

**ABOUT CRCP:** The Chicagoland Regional College Program is a new academic-employment partnership between Chicago State University, Moraine Valley Community College and UPS. These organizations enable aspiring college students to achieve their unique educational and career goals without having to carry huge debts into the future, while working a part-time job.

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[Editor's Note: More information about the Chicagoland Regional College Program is available at [http:// www.crcprogram.com](http://www.crcprogram.com)]