

# SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0



HOPE HIGH SCHOOL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



A Hope High *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* student meeting and greeting then Providence **Mayor, Angel Tavares**, with best networking practices of good eye contact, firm handshake, a genuine smile, and a warm greeting during one of our many *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* field trips.

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Hope High *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* students gathering for a group photo at the 2010 **Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards banquet** at the Providence Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island. The student objective for this evening event was to practice their networking skills and expand their personal networks of trustworthy, honorable, successful people.

**This class  
helps students  
become the person  
they want to be.**

Your first reaction may be ‘*how do you propose to do this?*’

First, **build the confidence** of students; help them feel good about who they are and what they can do. Secondly, **introduce and develop the skills and behaviors they need in the 21st century** to become the person they aspire to be.

We **start by looking to the FUTURE** to anticipate the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in a global economy. **Next**, we look to the **PAST**,

**HISTORY**, for the stories of people and events, mistakes and successes, which students can apply to their lives today. There is no better way to teach students how to be successful than the lessons from memorable people and epic events in history. And **finally**, we invite **guests, working in the careers our students have an interest in**, to our class to engage in conversation, ask questions, listen to their insights, and ultimately add to student networks for an ongoing connection for advice for their future success.

This class, **SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0**, focuses on **developing a specific strategy with the skills, behaviors, and attitudes which absolutely help students become successful.**



**FERNANDO PEREZ**, class of 2014 at Hope High School, speaking to a group of CVS Health employees at the corporate headquarters in Woonsocket, RI after his **Hope High School SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 paid summer internship** following his junior in the Life Skills class. By 2020, after repeated employment at CVS Health during Fernando’s school vacations while at the University of Rhode Island, Fernando was offered a **full time job in the digital marketing division of CVS Health, a \$200+ billion dollar company.**





Aristides Membreno, Product Design Manager at **Hasbro** and formerly a product designer at **Reebok**, shares some of his designs at both companies as well as his personal story from his emigration from Central America to the United States and his design education.

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The lessons of this class are **RELEVANT**; this means, real lessons which are related to what's really happening in the 21st century global marketplace where students will compete for jobs, careers, and personal success. In other words, these are the skills companies look for today in the people they hire.

**The skills and attitudes we teach help students get the jobs they want to become the person they aspire to be.**

My name is Stephen Cronin, the former President of MERCURY PRINT & MAIL, a marketing strategy and services company, located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and, presently, a business development executive at Signature Printing in East Providence, RI.

For 19 years, I've been teaching and continually refining a **for-credit "Life Skills"** program at Hope High School in Providence, Rhode Island. I'm now teaching this class at East Providence High School. This class is called **SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0**. Its mission starts with building

*student confidence.*



Hope High School students in the *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* class attend a meeting with supervisors at the corporate offices of **Amica Insurance**, a Rhode Island-based mutual insurance company that offers auto, home and life insurance with approximately 4,000 employees.

**When students feel good about themselves, they are better able to learn and develop proven skills, behaviors, and attitudes for their success.**

The *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* class shares what successful people ANTICIPATE in the FUTURE and from the stories of memorable people and epic events in history in order to develop specific skills, behaviors, and attitudes students need to create opportunities for the apprenticeships, college applications, internships, and jobs. In the process, this class

***expands student career horizons***

***of what's not only possible but how to make them probable!***

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Feedback from local business executives and global corporate leaders identify the skills, behaviors, and attitudes we will develop in this class for student lifetime success. As a result, *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* lessons are



**Hope High students learning about health care jobs at the *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* annual career and jobs day at the CVS Health corporate campus in Woonsocket, RI.**



a small group of Hope Life Skills students confer with CVS Health data analysts about the importance of data and the company's analysis of data during the *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 annual jobs and career day tour of the CVS Health corporate offices* in 2019. Other small groups of students chose different departments to discuss other career choices like pharmacy, graphic design, and supply chain.

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**RELEVANT to  
what is actually happening  
in  
the global job market.**

**Colleges and universities  
are now focusing  
on  
teaching and developing  
these  
*'life skills'.***

For example, Nido Quebein, the President of High Point University in High Point, North Carolina, is focusing his university's education on

*"Life Skills"* development. President Quebein markets **High Point University** as "a **Life Skills University**". Quebein states *"life skills' is a term used by employers to define specific, non-technical, traits and skills they look for in their new hires"*.

**Successful companies  
value the *life skills*  
we teach in  
SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 like  
*"personal branding",  
"networking"*  
and  
*"leadership"***

while developing skills and behaviors like

*“collaboration”,  
“time management”,  
“storytelling”,  
adaptability,  
critical thinking,  
and  
creativity,*

while encouraging students to

*“push out of  
their comfort zones”*

to try new things like learn a new language, play a new instrument, exercise or meet new people with different interests as their own. New people, new interests expand choices for career

opportunities. The class also strives to inspire students to persevere through adversity; all successful people have encountered failure in their lives. The occasional mistake or set back always provides valuable lessons to improve not end a dream.

The *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* program is a

**collaboration  
between  
area businesses  
and  
East Providence High School.**

If baseball teams invest in a minor league developmental system as a pipeline for developing major league talent,

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**LINKEDIN site of Marta Aparicio**, 2010 Hope High School graduate and SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 alum. SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 students are asked to establish and promote their brand as well as building and expanding their network on **LINKEDIN.**



**East Providence High School,  
with support of  
Rhode Island businesses,  
provides  
internships  
and  
a jobs pipeline  
through the  
SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0  
program.**

SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 pushes students out of their comfort zones to take on new challenges with basic *'life skills'* taught in this class and a *'growth mindset'* which instills personal confidence and the necessary perspective for learning valuable life lessons from

challenges and occasional mistakes.

The SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 class features a

**weekly guest  
with a student  
playing the role of  
class host**

welcoming the guest to our class from a career students are interested in, introducing the guest to their fellow classmates, and beginning a question and answer session to learn valuable life lessons from our guest. As importantly, students often meet guests who don't look like them nor come from the same backgrounds but who they'll eventually encounter, compete

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Hope High School SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 student introduces our guest for the week, Nan Quinlan, an employment consultant, to the SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 class for a conversation about best practices for writing a great job resume.





**Top photo:** Following the introduction of the weekly guest by the student host to the rest of the class, each student approaches the guest with a greeting of a genuine smile and 'a heartfelt welcome' to Hope High School. In the photo above, students welcome **Arnell Milhouse**, the 'Entrepreneur in Residence' at **Brown University's Nelson Center** and the **Founder of Career Devs**, an alternative education program teaching computer *coding* skills with a guaranteed job placement following graduation.

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**Bottom photo:** **Anthony Muhammed**, Hope High School and Providence College graduate, shares his personal story of building a diverse network of successful, honorable people who guided him in his professional career to his present position of **Vice President - Risk Management at Barclays Investment Bank in New York City**.



against, and collaborate with in the job market of their future. This class is not a presentation or lecture;

**this class is a conversation between students and the professional guest, facilitated by a student host.**

This class coordinates

***field trips to big companies***  
like

## **CVS Health and Amica Insurance,**

startup companies like Teespring, **universities** like Roger Williams University, Providence College, and Georgetown University, **national conferences** like BIF (Business Innovation Factory) and The National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., as well as **networking events** like the annual **MARKETING FORUM** and **THE FUTURE FORUM** where students join corporate professionals to collaborate, create, and

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Students attend the Hope High SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 **annual career and jobs day at the CVS Health campus in Woonsocket, RI** Students indicate a specific job they may be curious about at CVS Health and then meet with members of those departments to learn specifics about what takes place on a daily basis in the job of their interest and what it is like working for a \$200 plus billion dollar company. Students learn about the CVS Health culture, i.e. what employees can expect from the company and what the company expects from its employees. **Photo above shows CVS Health Director Yolanda Baez sharing her inspiring story** about growing up in Providence, her education, and career path at CVS.



student **Sara Jackson** helping a customer at the Providence bookstore, **Books on the Square**, during her **paid summer internship** at the store following her junior year in the Hope High SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 class.

present ideas to solve problems or create entrepreneurial opportunities and then network with these professionals for advice, inspiration, and to become part of each student's personal **NETWORK** of successful people. All successful people have and utilize their networks to create opportunity and mitigate challenges throughout their lives.

**60% to 85% of jobs today  
come from  
a person's  
NETWORK!**

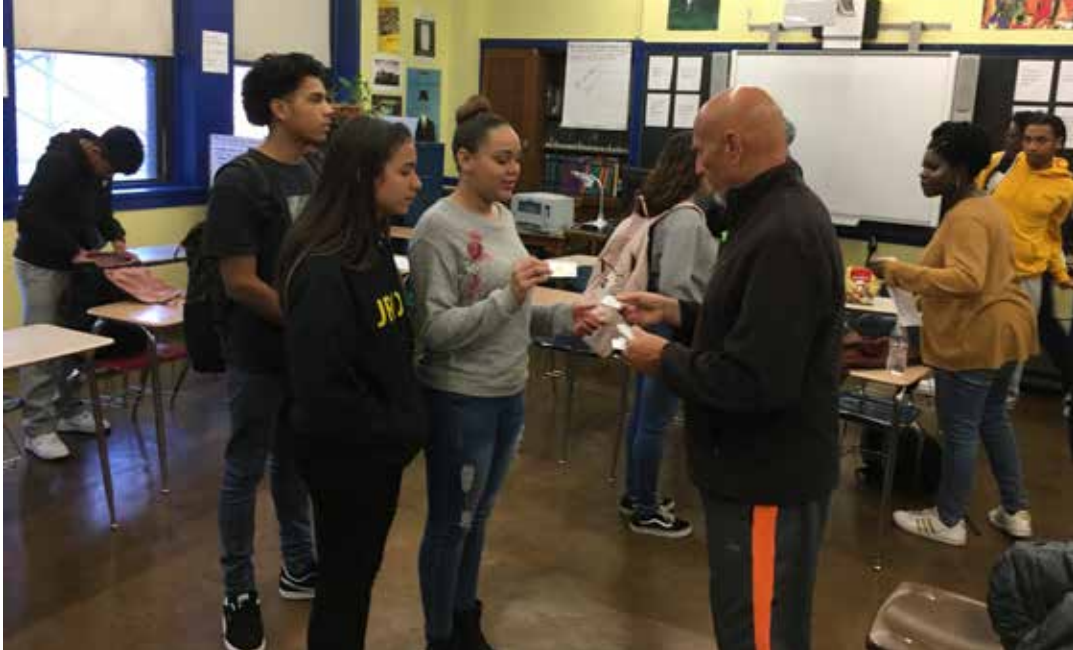
Students compete for paid, summer

### **internships at companies**

like CVS Health at their corporate offices to learn about 21st century jobs like "*supply chain management*", "*graphic design*", "*pharmacy*" and "*computer programming*" from people working in these positions today. Students have also been awarded paid internships at Providence law firms and a community bookstore (*Books on the Square*).

Each student is given East Providence





**Top photo:** SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 student exchanging business cards with the day's guest, **Francisco Noya**, the the **Music Director and Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic** as well as a **professor at the world renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and the Music Director & Conductor of the Boston Civic Symphony**.

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**Bottom photo:** Hope High students networks with **Abby Almonte**, **Marketing Coordinator at Sarson Funds** in Baltimore, MD, with **exemplary networking skills**, i.e. good eye contact, genuine smile, and a warm welcome to the *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* class - *"thank you for coming to our class today, Abby"* prior to Abby' sharing her story about going to high school in Providence, college in Baltimore, her internship experiences and how they helped Abby get her present job at Sarson Funds. Perfect.





High School student

### **business cards**

to maximize each networking opportunity.

11 **textbooks** are posted on the class web site - [www.hopeliveskills.com](http://www.hopeliveskills.com) - which introduce the life skills concepts of “*personal brand*”, “*success*”, “*leadership*”, “*change*”, “*the Future*”, and “*hope*” as well as complementary skills like “*networking*”, “*creativity*”, “*collaboration*”, “*communication*”, “*critical thinking*”, “*time management*”, “*data analysis*”, “*empathy*”, “*story telling*” and “*asking*” skills.

Finally, there is the

### **“Future Forum”**

The **FUTURE FORUM** is an annual

**collaboration  
among  
our students,  
student guests from  
area private schools,  
and  
corporate “futurists”  
from companies like  
*DataRobot,*  
*Brown University,*  
*Working Planet,*  
*Bank of America,***

***CVS Health,*  
*Gilbane Building Company,*  
**and**  
*Accenture,***

all reflecting upon a contemporary opportunity or problem to solve using today’s technology and human capital. The Forum addresses the important relationship between people and technology, specifically AI, (artificial intelligence), humans and machines, which students will soon find prevalent in the workplace of the emerging, 21st century. **The Forum provides**



**top photo** - one of the many groups among students and two corporate futurists **collaborating** to **create** a solution for FUTURE FORUM 4 challenge, i.e. “*improving Providence Public School Education*”. **Bottom photo** - students from Hope High, LaSalle Academy and Rocky Hill Country Day share their ideas for improving Providence Public School education.





Top photo shows Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza open FUTURE FORUM 4 by sharing his personal story and his goals for the City of Providence.

14 Bottom photo shows the collaboration groups of high school students from Hope High, Rocky Hill Country Day and LaSalle Academy with their corporate futurist facilitators from companies like Alex & Ani, Working Planet, Brown University, Bank of America, CVS Health, Signature Printing, Gilbane Building Company, and Data Robot, at FUTURE FORUM 4 working on solutions to that year's FUTURE FORUM challenge: i.e. improving Providence public school education.



a thought provoking, creative, collaboration among a diverse group of people, i.e. corporate futurists, students from East Providence High School, and students from the area's private high schools.

The success of the SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 program rests upon its

**RELEVANCE**  
to real job opportunities  
of the 21st century  
which  
our students will eventually  
compete for  
in a  
**GLOBAL economy.**

The following pages share stories of 4 amazing SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 graduates already or soon to be making a difference in organizations, companies, communities, and the world.



Marta Aparicio, Hope High 2010 graduate and now a United States Diplomat serving in the US Embassy in the country of Laos, mentoring young people in Bogata, Columbia, during her Columbia University internship.

**In November 2008**, a student approached me requesting fund raising ideas to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on CSI and Law in Washington, D.C. “Why would anyone invest \$3,000 in you to attend this conference, **Marta? Tell me your story first**” I said to the quiet, somewhat hesitant 16 year old Hope High junior, **Marta Aparicio.** “Well, **I was born in Guatemala.** My parents left me in Guatemala to be raised by my grandmother while they emigrated to the United States. I met my parents for the first time when I came to the United States at 12 years old. It didn’t work out well, Mr Cronin. **I am now 16, living on my own,** working 30 hours a week at Miriam Hospital and I’m ranked number 1 in my class.” I stopped Marta to say “Marta, tell me no more! We’ll find the money to send you to the Leadership Forum. One condition. Allow my sister-in-law to pick you up at the airport and bring you to a tour I’ll arrange at Georgetown University before going to the Leadership Forum.” Marta took the Georgetown tour, then went to the National Youth Leadership Forum attended by 400 high school students from all over the United States. After completing her senior year at Hope, Marta graduated number 1 in her class. **Marta applied to Georgetown University and was awarded a full scholarship.**

**Marta’s story reveals a life of grit and consistently overcoming formidable challenges** along the way. In the Social Studies 2.0 class, I learned Marta was doing her assignments on her



mobile phone before sending the file to a classmate to print. Thanks to the generosity of Hope High Social Studies 2.0 corporate sponsors, Marta was given a lap top to alleviate the need of her mobile phone for homework assignments. Georgetown University provided new challenges for Marta. *“Most of my Georgetown classmates came from affluent families. They went to private schools and spoke English from birth. I had to find a job to support myself. I initially questioned myself, wondering if I belonged at Georgetown and could do the class work. First semester, my history professor assigned us 10 books to read! I retreated to my dorm room after each class to be alone.”* In typical Marta Aparicio fashion, she persevered, worked hard, developed and utilized a strong network, and once again was successful. Her first semester GPA was 3.3. *“It was hard; I had my doubts the first year. I eventually realized I had to get out of the comfort zone of my dorm room and start meeting new people and join some organizations. I became focused, worked very hard, sometimes all-nighters. My college experience suddenly changed. I had two exciting internships over one summer in Washington, D.C.. I met some very interesting people and continued to build my network. I earned a 3.3 GPA and I studied abroad in Spain my junior year. My college experience at Georgetown was amazing!”*

Marta returned to Providence her Senior year at Georgetown to participate in the 2014 Social Studies

2.0 class networking event during a Pawtucket Red Sox game at McCoy Stadium. At the end of an evening of networking, a Vice President from an international Fortune 500 company was so impressed with Marta, he networked Marta with a Vice President at the Follett Corporation. Marta interviewed for a position at Follett. Marta became the Director of Retail Operations in the southeast territory of Follett and she was also an Adjunct Professor at Miami Dade Community College. Marta returned to Providence for a job at the Providence Housing Authority in 2017. *In 2018, Marta was awarded a Charles Rangel Fellowship to begin a master’s program in International Studies at Columbia University.* After her first year in the program, Marta was awarded an internship at the United States Embassy in Bogota, Columbia. Marta received her first US diplomatic assignment in June 2020 at

### the United States Embassy in Laos as a United States diplomat.



Marta Aparicio giving back to Hope High School with her annual visit to the SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 class to share her inspirational personal story of challenges and success.



## Jason Roias: Hope High Class 2014

**Jason Roias** was a Social Studies 2.0 student and 2014 graduate of Hope High School. Jason, unfortunately, experienced great turmoil living with his parents. **By his senior year at Hope High, he had left his parents home and found a part time job** in order to to live with his two older brothers at their apartment in Providence.

Jason quickly embraced the lessons of the Life Skills program. **He became the ultimate networker**, meeting, greeting and optimally presenting his brand at every encounter. He volunteered for the Jorge Elorza Mayoral

campaign against “Buddy” Cianci. He successfully interviewed for a job at the Hinkley Allen law firm in Providence. He was **chosen to represent the Hope Life Skills class at the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in Washington, D.C.** He successfully ran for **Class President** his senior year at Hope High School. Jason Roias’ brand and his strategy for life time success were exceptional.

There is one event Jason shared with me that personifies his exceptional **Life Skills**. On May 7th, 2014, a very upset Hope High senior **Jason Roias**



**Jason Roias** (left), *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* alum and then Rhode Island College freshman, speaks with **Vince Burks**, Senior Assistant Vice President and Communications Director at **Amica Mutual Insurance Company**, during a 2015 annual *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* networking event in a McCoy Stadium corporate suite during a **Pawtucket Red Sox** game.

called me.

"Mr Cronin, I was counting on a job at a Providence company this summer to help me with my college expenses. They just told me the job was already filled. This creates big problems for me. Mr. Cronin, can you help me find another job?"

"Jason" I said. "What have you done other than call me? Of course, I'll help but **have you called contacts in the network you've been building since last year to see if anyone has information on summer jobs?** In fact, did you call the law firm you worked for last summer to see if they had a job or did they know another Providence law firm in their network which might have one? Use your network, Jason!" "OK, Mr Cronin; I'll try" he said.

Before Jason hung up, I added the following: "Jason. People like and respect you. You've done a good job over the past year building a positive brand. Take advantage of it. Make the call. Continue to be respectful and appreciative as you always are. Something good will happen. Keep me posted."

Two days later, Jason called back. "**Mr Cronin! You won't believe it!** I called the law firm I worked last summer. I spoke to my contact there. I told her my story, about not having the job I anticipated and needed for college. She said the summer jobs at her firm had been filled but she would see if she could help. 10 minutes later, just 10

minutes, Mr Cronin, **she called back offering me a job.** Unbelievable! You know, **I wrote a thank you card** to this woman at the law firm at the end of last summer, when my job was finished, thanking her for the opportunity to work there. I think it helped. Thanks so much, Mr Cronin. You were right."

"You're welcome, Jason" I said. "This proves three things. One, your brand remains strong. Two, you've got a great network and you've developed it well. That 'thank you' card you gave your contact at the firm just paid a big dividend. To make networks effective, you must do things like hand written 'thank you' cards or an occasional 'how are you doing?' or timely 'congratulations' emails to people in your network. This lets these people know you're still interested in them. And, three, you told your story well, with credibility, respect and sincerity. Congratulations."

Jason enrolled at Rhode Island College after his graduation from Hope. After a successful first semester, Jason received the shocking news that his federal financial aid package at Rhode Island College would not carry over to his second semester due to parental finance reporting issues. With no money for school tuition, Jason was forced to drop out of Rhode Island College and find work if he wishes to return to RIC. Jason is presently continuing his education at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

Jason continues to work hard at Hin-

kley Allen to save money for his return to his education at RIC.

At the same time, he and his brothers, Justin and John, have **started a charitable foundation to feed Providence's homeless.** In 2018, Jason also announced his

### **candidacy for the Providence City Council.**

Providence, Rhode Island's future will be a better place with Jason Roias playing a leadership role in it.



**Jason Roias** volunteered to step out of his comfort zone to throw out the first pitch of the Pawtucket Red Sox during the annual SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 **networking event** at McCoy Stadium.



A SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 **student networks with Jason Roias** following one of Jason's annual visits to the class to share his inspirational story.

### **Manny Rivas: Hope High Class 2016**

***"I began High School as a knucklehead;*** *I was well on the road of being a dropout. I was doing things that jeopardized my future. For the first half of my freshmen year I barely went to school and when I did, I wasn't focused on my work. My grades were poor; I wasn't working to my potential. And, I wasn't hanging around with the right people. But I changed all that!*

*In my junior year I enrolled in your Life Skills program; it helped shape my way of thinking for the rest of my life.* You're a local businessman and president of a company called TWOBOLT. You donate your time to students from Hope High School to help us better ourselves and our personal brand to create good habits for the future. When I entered your Social Studies 2.0 class, I didn't know about networking or what personal brand was and how it would help me. You



**Manny Rivas** steps out of his comfort zone to volunteer to **role play a job interview** with **Nan Quinlan**, the former Training and Development Manager at TACO Inc, a large, international company headquartered in Cranston, Rhode Island. Ms Quinlan visits the SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 class each year to introduce and develop student **job interviewing skills.** Nan also returns each year for a class on **resume writing.**



**Manny Rivas** presents a summary of his *SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0* class **paid summer internship at the CVS Health corporate offices** to members of the CVS Health supply chain team at the conclusion of Manny's internship following his junior year.

*helped me get to where I wanted to go, becoming a successful businessman. You saw the hunger for greatness I had; you knew that I was eager to learn. Through your help and mentoring, I left your class a businessman ready to take on the world.*

*The Social Studies 2.0 Life Skills class opened many doors for me. From helping me create a resume which landed me my first job at Burger King to helping me gain networking skills which I used to meet Kerry Tuttlebee, who gave me a job in a student led design team for the 360 High School and rec-*

*ommending me to the VP of CVS, Lou Mercardo where I received a position for a summer internship. This was also the same year where I received the Seth Magaziner Award and you were sitting in the audience supporting me.*

*This class has better prepared me for college and the obstacles in life. I learned the fundamentals of networking with people and representing my values and goals through my personal brand to the best of my ability, which thus gave me the confidence to face the obstacles life has to offer. Now, as I enter college in the fall and get essays, proj-*



*ects and test thrown at me, I will have the same confidence to overcome these obstacles with the same hard work and dedication I used to get to where I am at now.”*

**Manny Rivas** became a role model as a Hope High School junior in the Life Skills program. He volunteered to welcome weekly guests to the Social Studies 2.0 class and then introduced the guests to his classmates prior to the start of each class. He completed all assignments and regularly extended himself out of his comfort zone. He attended each class and anytime his city bus was late arriving to school, Manny would always text me of his tardiness. As a result, Manny was nominated to apply for a CVS Health summer internship. He competed against several other students and was ultimately awarded an internship working with the supply chain management team at CVS. ***Manny Rivas’s brand is impressive.***

At the conclusion of the internship, Manny’s reaction was impressive. *“Mr Cronin, I really appreciated the internship and learned a lot. One of the most important lessons was what I learned about ‘supply chain management’. I realized it wasn’t something I could be passionate about. I did, however, do a lot of networking at CVS and, if I’m fortunate enough to get an internship next summer, I’d like to try marketing. That seems interesting.”* Important lesson learned.

Manny maintained his stellar academic and Life Skills performance into his senior year. As a result, Manny found himself choosing between scholarship offers from Babson and Providence Colleges. *“Mr Cronin, I just feel more comfortable at Providence.”* Impressive. Two great schools. Babson and Providence’s scholarship offers indicate the long term value both colleges saw with an investment in the Manny Rivas brand.

Manny Rivas. Hope High School Class of 2014, Providence College Class of 2020. Even greater success to come.

This SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 testimonial Manny has provided is one I often use when informing Hope High sophomores about the Social Studies 2.0 program and encourage them to consider Social Studies 2.0 for their Junior year. ***“I absolutely loved the life skills class. The two years I spent in the program cultivated my knowledge on business and gave me knowledge on how important personal brand is. By doing this class I gained knowledge on everything about life and how to network with people. The years I spent in the class were amazing, definitely worth spending an early Friday morning because the information you gain from this class is second to none.”***

Thank you, Manny.

## Maria DaSilva: Hope High Class 2017

***Maria DaSilva*** was part of the Social Studies 2.0 program as a junior at Hope High School. Maria appeared very smart, well read, creative, artistic, conscientious and shy. ***“Mr Cronin, I’m hoping you can help me out of my comfort zone to build my confidence so I can do some things I’d really like to do.”***

Maria’s mission was to develop the full menu of Life Skills to build confidence for her to go beyond her comfort zone to exploit the vast potential so many people saw in her and she wanted so much for herself.

We started early in the school year with Maria welcoming our Life Skills guests to Hope High School and then standing before the entire Social stud-

ies 2.0 class to introduce them. With each guest welcome and introduction, Maria’s confidence grew. Slowly but surely, with each new situation, Maria pushed herself out of her comfort zone to bolster her confidence for the next challenge. Maria approached guests at the end of each class to network. On field trips, Maria did the same, introducing herself to new, successful professional businessmen and women she met, extending her hand, establishing confident eye contact, all with a sincere smile. While Maria was building her network, she was also bolstering her brand and confidence.

By the end of the second semester, Maria spoke to me about a summer job. *“Mr Cronin, there is a bookstore in my neighborhood I often visit. I don’t have money to buy books; I just like brows-*

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Maria serves a customer at her **ASOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 paid summer internship** at **Books On The Square** bookstore in the Wayland Square neighborhood of Providence, RI.

*ing the store and looking at the books.”* Maria and I collaborated on a plan to get a job interview at her local bookstore using her new found life skills and growing confidence “*Maria, ask your contact at the bookstore if she would give you an interview for a summer job. Let’s see what happens. The worst they could say is ‘no’*” I suggested.

Several days later, Maria approached her bookstore contact about a paid internship. The store employee agreed to interview Maria for a paid internship the bookstore was offering for the summer. The bookstore manager also informed Maria there were other candidates for the position. Maria returned at the scheduled date for the

interview with her resume she learned to write in the Social Studies 2.0 class.

A few weeks later, **Maria informed me she got the internship.** “*And, I feel pretty good about it too, Mr Cronin*” she said.

Maria is on her way. Her next mission may be an internship in line with her art interests. Wouldn’t an internship in graphic design next summer at the corporate offices of CVS Health be great??!! And, what about a visit to the **National Youth Leadership Forum** in Washington, D.C.? All in line with Maria’s great potential.



**Maria** was the **SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0** class host and introduces **Dereck Mendoza**, a **Senior Research Technician** at one of the world’s largest and most successful property insurance companies, **FM Global** to her Life Skills classmates at the start of today’s class.





**TOP PHOTO:** Hope High School SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 students on a **tour of the Roger Williams University** Bristol, RI campus, meeting and speaking with Admissions counselors, **students of color attending the university**, and enjoying a delicious meal at RWU highly rated student dining hall.

**BOTTOM PHOTO** (left to right): Walter Jimenez, Nayely Furcal, Eveline Silva, Laisha Mendez, Rosa Rodriguez, and Lysanyis Gonzalez represent Hope High School SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 class at **the 2018 National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C.** The 5 day Forum brings together over 400 high school students from across the United States to Washington, D.C. for this life changing event. Corporate sponsors of the SOCIAL STUDIES 2.0 program pay the \$3,000 per student attendance fees (tuition, hotel, air fare, and spending money) to the Forum.