

Communities
In Schools

Florida

April 2011 Edition

ConnectionNews



I Voted, Have You?

No matter if you vote red or blue, we can all agree that this vote counts! Communities In Schools of Florida has been chosen as one of three organizations to participate in Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida's (BCBSFL) Facebook promotion, "The Pursuit" during the month of April. Each month BCBSFL will feature three non-profit organizations and invite Facebook users to vote for their favorite. The non-profit with the most votes at the end of the month wins \$3,000.

CISFL is currently leading with the most votes, but we need your help to stay in the lead. First, visit the [BCBSFL fan page](#) and "like" the organization. Then click on the green "click here to vote" button at the top of the page to accept the voting application.* Finally, return to the BCBSFL Facebook page once per day and cast your vote for Communities In Schools of Florida and encourage your Facebook friends to do the same.

Thank you to BCBSFL for inviting us to participate in The Pursuit and giving us another vehicle to share our vision of a dropout-free Florida.

*Our agreement with BCBSFL prohibits them from accessing, utilizing, storing, or sharing any personal information other than using a voter's login ID to ensure individuals vote only once per day.



Communities In Schools National Evaluation Results

Five years of detailed evaluation recently concluded, confirming what many of us already believe to be true – Communities In Schools is the most effective dropout prevention organization in America.

The study, underwritten by The Atlantic Philanthropies, was the largest and most comprehensive evaluation of dropout prevention programs ever completed and highlighted three key points in its conclusion: Communities In Schools' model resulted in the strongest



reduction in dropout rates of any existing fully-scaled dropout prevention program that has been evaluated; that Communities In Schools is unique in having an effect on both reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates; and that the Communities In Schools model is effective across states, school settings, grade levels and student ethnicities. Analysis of the data also indicate that the more fully and carefully the model is implemented, the stronger the effects.

[Click here](#) for the full story, to view the press conference and for a copy of the final evaluation report.

Congratulations to Our Newly-Accredited Affiliates



Please join Communities In Schools of Florida in congratulating our very first affiliates to achieve National Accreditation! Communities In Schools of Nassau County and Communities In School of Miami-Dade County have demonstrated compliance with all CIS Total Quality System (TQS) standards, resulting in decreased dropout rates and increased graduation rates.

[TQS standards](#) are outlined by Communities In Schools' national office and define expectations for effective non-profit business practices and for implementing the CIS model of integrated student support services at school sites. Six additional Florida affiliates are currently in various stages of the TQS process. We will keep you updated as they achieve accreditation.



CISFL State Director Lois Gracey serves on the Governance Committee for CIS National and CISFL Director of Replication and Training Carol Gordon has served on several accreditation reviews for CIS National. Lois and Carol are dedicated to the accreditation process and committed to helping Florida's affiliates achieve this designation.

In Other News

Congratulations to CISFL's State Director Lois Gracey and Bruce Manciangli, Director of Partnerships and Development, who were selected by the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation to participate in the [2011 Six Pillars Caucus System](#). The Six Pillars identify the critical factors in determining Florida's future and includes a caucus for each, including Talent Supply and Education; Innovation and Economic Development; Infrastructure and Growth Leadership; Business Climate and Competitiveness; Civic and Governance Systems; and Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Members of the Six Pillars Caucus System will help craft the first-ever, state-wide strategic plan to help guide Florida towards a future



economy that includes high-wage jobs, global competitiveness and vibrant communities by the year 2030.

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