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CIS of Palm Beach Achieves National Accreditation

Please join Communities In Schools of Florida in congratulating our latest affiliate to achieve National Accreditation - Communities In Schools of [Palm Beach](#). CIS of Palm Beach has demonstrated compliance with all CIS [Total Quality System](#) (TQS) standards, resulting in decreased dropout rates and increased graduation rates. CIS of Palm Beach joins CIS of [Nassau County](#) and CIS of [Miami](#) as affiliates who have also achieved the TQS standards outlined by Communities In Schools' national office. These standards define expectations for effective non-profit business practices and for implementing the CIS model of integrated student support services at school sites.

Newly Certified Site Coordinators

CISFL is pleased to announce 10 new graduates of the Communities In Schools Site Coordinator Certification Program. The additional knowledge, resources and tools gained as a result of the completion of the program will equip these site coordinators to more effectively serve CIS students and ultimately contribute to making the Florida network stronger.

Current Cohort of Graduates: Bramley Littlepage, CIS of Jacksonville; Blythe Sallee, CIS of Jacksonville; Ingrid Thomas, CIS of Jacksonville; and Nadege Delinois-Jean, CIS of Miami.

Former Cohort of Graduates: Elyssa Arroyo, CIS of Miami; Eve McKinsey, CIS of Miami; Carri Sonise, CIS of Miami; Amy Pipkin, CIS of Nassau; Samantha Ragland, CIS of Palm Beach; and Lori Zengel, CIS of Leon County.

This is a milestone signaling a considerable amount of time and energy and we offer congratulations to all our new graduates!

CISFL Affiliates in the News

CIS of Miami Students Participate in Financial Bootcamp

Communities In Schools of [Miami](#), the [Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce](#) and [City National Bank](#)

recently hosted "Real Money Business Bootcamp," bringing together 70 students to help them understand the importance of saving and smart spending.

Throughout the day, students were presented with real-life scenarios and learned about the financial implications of paying for their education, housing, transportation, entertainment, fitness, and insurance, and the skills to manage their credit and banking accounts.



CIS of Miami's Real Money Business Bootcamp participants.

Photo credit: Miami Beach News

Following the Bootcamp, the students were asked to complete a one-page essay about their experience. The top three winners will be chosen to receive scholarship money, which will be provided thanks to sponsor donations. For more about the Bootcamp, read the full article in the [Miami Beach News](#).

CIS of Leon County Students Enjoy Shopping Spree



SunTrust employees; CIS of Leon Board Member Melvin Stone; Riley Elementary Principal; CIS of Florida Director of Program Services Matt McKibbin; and Riley Elementary students.

Communities In Schools of Leon County and [SunTrust Bank](#) sponsored 30 students to participate in a shopping spree in partnership with [Walmart](#).

The students were paired with volunteers from SunTrust, CIS of Leon County, CIS of Florida, and Walmart to shop around the store for necessities like coats, shoes and socks, and even a toy or two. The students enjoyed a healthy snack to kick off their shopping experience and were

treated to a pizza party with their parents upon returning to school. For more about the CIS of Leon County shopping spree, read the full article in the [Tallahassee Democrat](#).

CIS of Nassau Volunteer Spotlight

We all know how important volunteers are to CISFL affiliates. The Fernandina Beach News Leader recently highlighted two CIS of Nassau volunteers who "have realized that schools alone cannot handle the complex issues facing today's youth." Jane Leising (pictured at top) and Theodora Karlis (pictured at bottom) are lending their time and

talents, embracing CIS and its mission to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. For more about these special volunteers, read the full article in the [Fernandina Beach News Leader](#).

Updates From CIS National

Help CIS Win \$50,000!

Your daily votes are needed to help Communities In Schools win AT&T's "Connect for Good" contest. "The \$80,000 Vote for Education" allows voters to select one of three education-focused charities including Communities In Schools. CIS needs your support to win, so between now and February 14, visit the [Connect for Good](#) page on Causes.com each day to cast your vote for Communities In Schools. AT&T will donate a total of \$80,000 in prizes, and the organization with the most votes will receive \$50,000 to help young people reach their fullest potential. You can vote once per day, and be sure to share the link with your family, friends and social networks!

Combat Cyberbullying by Participating in the NO BULL Challenge

Recently, CIS partnered with [The Great American NO BULL Challenge](#), which is the first, student-led National Video Contest and Teen Video Awards show that brings awareness to the issue of cyberbullying in America. The goal of the NO BULL Challenge is to join America's students, educators, counselors, organizations, communities, and corporate America together in an effort to enable real change at the student level. The NO BULL Challenge is the largest, youth-led national campaign in America's history to combat cyberbullying, using the power of social media.

From January 15th through March 14th, students in grades 6-12 are invited to create a 2-5 minute video with an anti-cyberbullying theme and submit their video to the NO BULL Challenge. Fifteen finalists will be selected from the top 100 fan favorite videos by a panel of expert judges. The NO BULL Finalists will be announced on May 17th, National Cyber Safety Awareness Day. All 15 finalists will be invited to attend a video award ceremony in San Francisco on July 21, where the winning videos will be announced live.

For more about the challenge and to browse submitted videos, visit The Great American NO BULL Challenge [website](#).

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