



July 8, 2015

Dear Friends,

I do my very best not to overload your inboxes and realize that I sent my last note just last week. My apologies for the inundation, but I can't help myself as we have big news.

We just learned that CSS has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Office of Adolescent Health \(OAH\)](#), to evaluate the effectiveness of Peer Group Connection (PGC) in reducing teen pregnancy among youth in high need communities across North Carolina (rural communities) and NYC (South Bronx). The grant is for \$959,500 per year for 5 years (2015-2020) for a total of \$4.8 million. Five years ago we received through this same OAH program a five-year federal grant which is soon ending. The timing could not be better.

If you scratched your heads for a moment when reading above that we will study PGC's impact on teen pregnancy, you're in good company as we typically describe PGC as increasing high school graduation rates and our Teen PEP solution as addressing pregnancy prevention. Because we were funded through this same grant program in 2010 to study Teen PEP and this study is still underway, we were ineligible to propose further study of Teen PEP.

As with most challenges, this presented an incredible opportunity. We believe that the fundamental social and emotional skills students develop through PGC can help them feel safer and more supported, engaged, and inspired in all aspects of their lives, resulting in healthier relationships and better decision-making. We therefore hypothesize that PGC is likely also to reduce teenage pregnancy among youth. OAH wants us to find out!

This is tremendous news for so many reasons. We will be able to conduct a randomized control trial of PGC, a critical evaluation for us as we only have one such study under our belts and it was relatively small. This will be bigger and (we hope!) validate the findings found in our first study while enabling us to learn so much more about Peer Group Connection and its impact on peer leaders, freshmen, and schools.

This also enables us to expand PGC further in both New York City and North Carolina, which of course brings us closer to reaching our goal that EVERY school develop all their students into leaders who make their schools safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring.

Thank you for sharing in our success.

All the best,

Daniel F. Oscar
CEO

P.S. As always, if you'd like additional information about anything you've read, simply hit reply and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!

Learn more about our solutions

The Center for Supportive Schools (CSS, formerly Princeton Center for Leadership Training) develops, disseminates, and promotes peer leadership, advisory, and other evidence-based K-12 solutions that enable and inspire schools to more fully engage students in learning, better connect students to their schools, motivate and equip students to make decisions responsibly, and accelerate academic achievement.

CSS has a 35-year history of changing life trajectories for students and effecting cultural transformations within schools. Since 1979, CSS has partnered with 350 schools in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C., and 8 other states. Our work has touched hundreds of thousands of students, educators, and families.

Don't forget to follow us on:



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