



September 16, 2015

Dear Friends,

Just like families all across the country, the CSS family has been busy gearing up for a new school year, helping prepare schools to engage their students as leaders. I'm pleased to offer the following updates on our work:

Fifty-three school partners. Fifty-three schools across five states have made or renewed their partnership with CSS for the coming year to help them become safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring. We are honored to be working closely with each school listed [here](#).

Chancellor Fariña sees PGC in action in NYC. New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña visited Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies High School (MACS) on September 9 and observed PGC peer leaders facilitating activities with their freshman groups (see an article about the visit [here](#)). CSS is the lead community school partner at MACS, one of 130 community schools that make up the [New York City Community Schools Initiative](#), a central element of Mayor de Blasio's vision to re-imagine the City's school system. Christopher Caruso, Executive Director of Office of Community Schools, New York City Department of Education, highlights CSS as an example of one of the "phenomenal partnerships" represented throughout Community Schools in the July/August 2015 issue of [Renewal In Action](#) (see page 4). CSS was featured for our work as a lead community school partner to eight community schools in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.



New middle school faculty advisors learn to prepare 8th graders to serve as peer leaders for younger students.



September is Attendance Awareness Month. CSS is pleased to be a Collaborating Partner in Attendance Awareness Month, a nationwide effort to promote awareness of the connection between school attendance and academic achievement. During the lead up to September, our own Dr. Margo Ross contributed to the campaign by discussing Peer Group Connection in the *Finish Strong: Address the Attendance Gap for Teens* [webinar](#) held on August 12, 2015, which featured innovative and evidence-based strategies for helping teens persist in going to school every day so they can finish strong. Click

[here](#) for tools to publicize Attendance Awareness Month and [here](#) for resources to promote regular attendance and reduce chronic absence in your own schools.

Join the CSS team! CSS is growing and we are seeking highly-qualified, passionate professionals for our national and regional teams. See [here](#) for current openings.

Stay connected to CSS. Whether you're an educator or student, funder or friend, CSS wants to stay engaged with you. "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter to stay up-to-date with CSS and the news that informs our work. We are pleased to bring you information and stories on relevant topics, online resources, and highlights from CSS programs and events. Click the icons in the green box below to connect!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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!