



October 20, 2015

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, America's Promise Alliance released [\*\*\*Don't Quit on Me: What Young People Who Left School Say About the Power of Relationships\*\*\*](#), a report that examines the roles that supportive relationships play in young people's decisions to stay in, leave, and return to school. The report recommends that schools engage young people as peer supporters and includes CSS as a resource for K-12 settings (see page 35). In addition to this compelling report, I'm pleased to offer the following updates on our work helping develop students into peer leaders who make schools better for themselves, their peers, and younger students: **Federal grant for mentoring.** We are honored that for the second consecutive year CSS received a highly competitive multi-state mentoring grant of \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to expand and enhance our peer leadership solution, Peer Group Connection (PGC), across five states: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina.

**Northampton County High School launches Teen PEP.** Thanks to a generous grant from [\*\*The Duke Endowment\*\*](#), CSS has launched our sexual health peer education initiative, Teen PEP, at North Carolina's Northampton County High School. "Working with kids younger than us builds our leadership skills. And they may be going through the same things we're going through," said Northampton senior and Teen PEP peer educator William Cumbo. [\*\*Read more...\*\*](#)

**Peers inspire peers in Baltimore City to *Show Up!*** As part of Attendance Awareness Month, the Baltimore Attendance Collaborative featured in its [\*\*blog\*\*](#) programs and strategies, including PGC, that are helping Baltimore students overcome barriers to attending school. CSS is a proud member of the Collaborative, which includes over 25 organizations working collectively to improve student attendance in the city.

**CSS webinar features PGC.** Please [\*\*join us\*\*](#) on Thursday, October 22 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. as we launch our **Lunch & Learn Webinar Series** with a close look at [\*\*Peer Group Connection\*\*](#) (PGC). You will hear directly from educators and students who have been impacted by PGC and learn how to bring PGC to your own school.

**CSS hiring Maryland/Delaware Executive Director.** CSS is growing and we are seeking a highly-qualified, passionate professional to lead our efforts in the Delaware/Maryland area. See [here](#) for details.

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!**