



January 20, 2016

Dear Friends,

CSS's focus on mentoring, as mirrored in much of this letter, is designed to help transform it from an underutilized strategy in schools to one that schools leverage on a widespread basis to unlock the potential of all students to achieve their full potential academically, socially, emotionally, and otherwise. On January 27, 2016, [**MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership \(MENTOR\)**](#) will honor champions of mentoring with the presentation of the annual *Excellence in Mentoring Awards*. I am delighted to [**share**](#) that CSS founder, Dr. Sharon Rose Powell, will be honored among others for her longstanding commitment to meeting the mentoring needs of young people.



I'm pleased to offer a small sample of other notable happenings:

January marks 15th annual National Mentoring Month. CSS is pleased to support the 15th annual [**National Mentoring Month**](#) as a Supporting Partner for the [**2016 National Mentoring Summit**](#) scheduled for January 27-29, 2016 in Washington, DC. The Summit is the premier event for the national mentoring movement and brings together more than 1,000 attendees to share effective and innovative practices, discuss new research, focus on professional development, and create a shared agenda to drive systemic change that integrates mentoring as a key strategy in supporting the millions of young people who want and need a mentor. My colleagues Dr. Margo Ross and Ms. Christine Harris will present the interactive workshop, *Establishing an Effective School-Based Peer Mentoring Program: Considerations and Case Study*, at the event on January 29. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming webinar features elements of effective peer mentoring. If you can't join us in person at the Summit, please [**join us**](#) tomorrow (Thursday, January 21) from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for the next CSS *Lunch & Learn Webinar*. In this webinar, we will explore best practices in school-based peer mentoring and learn specific strategies used in our national peer group mentoring model for middle and high schools known as [**Peer Group Connection**](#) (PGC). You will also hear directly from educators and students who have been impacted by PGC and learn how to bring PGC to your own school.

New book helps schools assess social, emotional, and character development. CSS partner and friend, Dr. Maurice Elias of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has co-authored a new

book designed to help schools systematically include information about students' social, emotional, and character development in their assessment of students. [Learn more](#) about *The Other Side of the Report Card: Assessing Students' Social, Emotional, and Character Development*, newly published by Corwin Press.

CSS is an official i3 grantee. As we shared with you in November, CSS was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 13 highest rated [Investing in Innovation \(i3\)](#) applicants for the 2015 grant competition. We have now secured the private-sector match funds for the project from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust required to become an official grantee. "We are excited to announce that businesses, philanthropies and non-profit organizations have committed nearly \$7 million in matching funds to the 2015 Investing in Innovation (i3) winners to help them officially become grantees. Their contribution represents local support for educators leading innovative and proven strategies focused on helping all students succeed," said Shane Mulhern, Director of the i3 program.

CSS is hiring! CSS is growing and we are seeking highly-qualified, passionate professionals for several open positions. 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!