



## Press Release

**Contact:** Dr. Margo Ross, Senior Director of Development  
**Phone:** 609.252.9300, ext. 113  
**Email:** [mross@princetonleadership.org](mailto:mross@princetonleadership.org)  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Dr. Sharon Rose Powell to be honored for Excellence in Mentoring

### *Founder of Center for Supportive Schools recognized for commitment to mentoring*

**Washington, DC** – On January 27, 2016, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) will honor Dr. Sharon Rose Powell as a champion of mentoring with the presentation of the annual *Excellence in Mentoring Awards*. Dr. Powell demonstrates a life-long commitment to expanding quality mentoring relationships for young people through her work as an educator, licensed psychologist, and founder of the Center for Supportive Schools (CSS, formerly Princeton Center for Leadership Training), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping schools become safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring.

These awards honor individuals who have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to meeting the mentoring needs of young people at the national, state, or local level. Nominations were submitted by members of MENTOR's national network of affiliate Mentoring Partnerships and national mentoring and youth-serving partner organizations. The additional honorees include Curley M. Dossman, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors of 100 Black Men of America, and Belkis Christina Plata, Mentor and Mentee with Take Stock in Children. The awards reception, held at the Library of Congress, will kick off the sixth annual National Mentoring Summit, which convenes leaders of youth-serving organizations interested in expanding quality youth mentoring.

“This past year MENTOR celebrated 25 years of building and unifying a youth mentoring movement. It has only been through the continued support of our nation's leaders across all sectors that our success in advancing the movement has been possible,” MENTOR CEO David Shapiro said. “This year's group best represents the dedication and commitment necessary as part of a collective movement to help close the mentoring gap.”

Dr. Powell's commitment to mentoring and her achievements in taking evidence-based mentoring programs to a national scale are best illustrated in her creation in 1979 of the Peer Group Connection (PGC) program, a school based, peer group mentoring model that taps into schools' most underutilized resources – students – and enlists them to significantly improve the school experience for themselves and their peers. Dr. Powell founded CSS with the goal of taking PGC to scale by partnering with school districts and building their capacity to implement and sustain the model. The program has been implemented in more than 250 high schools in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the country.

Daniel F. Oscar, President & CEO of CSS, succeeded Dr. Powell upon her retirement from the organization in 2009. "Throughout her impressive career, Sharon has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the school experience for students in schools across the country," said Mr. Oscar. "Her vision drives CSS to work toward the day when every student in the United States attends schools that are safe, supportive, engaging, and inspiring, places that enable them to reach their full potential. Nobody deserves this award more."

Dr. Powell has also been the recipient of several awards for her innovative work and achievements in student leadership development, including the Alumnae Achievement Award from the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Based on our experience in hundreds of schools across the country utilizing the peer mentoring model, mentoring is a gift that keeps on giving – for freshmen transitioning into high schools; for upperclassmen who serve as peer leaders; and also for the teachers that lead Peer Group Connection in the schools," said Dr. Powell. "Mentoring is a very personal experience of giving back and is an institutional obligation for every school in our country."

### **About CSS**

Center for Supportive Schools (CSS, formerly Princeton Center for Leadership Training) has a 35-year history of partnering with K-12 schools throughout the United States to train and mobilize students to be lifelong leaders who make schools better for themselves, their peers, and younger students. As a result, schools become safer, more supportive, engaging, inspiring learning environments and students become strongly connected through caring relationships with adults and one another; and highly skilled in the leadership, academic, social, and emotional skills that are proven to result in school and life success. Please visit [www.supportiveschools.org](http://www.supportiveschools.org).

To learn more about MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership or the Excellence in Mentoring Award, please contact Jennifer Merrill, Marketing & Communications Manager at 617.303.4612 or [jmerrill@mentoring.org](mailto:jmerrill@mentoring.org).

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