



April 26, 2016

Dear Friends,

The White House and U.S. Department of Education have launched the **[My Brother's Keeper \(MBK\) Success Mentors Initiative](#)** which aims to connect over one million chronically absent students with caring mentors. It is the nation's first-ever effort to scale an evidence-based, data-driven mentor model to reach and support the highest risk students, using existing resources already linked to schools. **CSS is proud to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Education to provide training and technical assistance to help schools in all MBK cities.**

A powerful new documentary highlights the importance of caring adults in the lives of youth.

[Paper Tigers](#) follows a year in the life of Lincoln High Alternative School in Walla Walla, Washington which has become a promising model of how to break the cycles of poverty, violence, and disease that affect families through trauma-informed educational strategies and is a testament to what the latest research on

childhood adversity is proving: *that one caring adult can change the trajectory of a young person's life.* Please **join** Trinity Counseling Service and CSS on Tuesday, May 3 in Princeton, NJ for a special film screening and discussion.



The power of peer relationships is the focus of a new video featuring Baltimore's Coppin Academy High School. In this informative and engaging **[video](#)**, student Media Team reporter Na'im Smith gives us a firsthand look at how Coppin's peer leaders contribute

to a supportive school environment and help younger students explore and address safety and security concerns inside and outside of school.

In addition, a new book highlights positive approaches to school discipline that are grounded in caring school climates and healthy relationships. **[Student Discipline: A Prosocial Perspective](#)**, by Dr. Phillip Brown, Senior Consultant for the National School Climate Center and a Fellow, Center for Applied Psychology at

Rutgers University, examines the science and evidence-informed programs that support a prosocial approach to school discipline. I am thrilled that our own Dr. Sherry Barr contributed a chapter on Peer Group Connection to this important book.

I am also pleased to welcome Ms. Joyce Loveless as our new Executive Director for North Carolina and Dr. Beshon Smith as our new Executive Director for Delaware and Maryland.

Joyce has held multiple leadership roles in North Carolina focused on improving educational outcomes for students. She shares, "The central thread running throughout my career is a belief in the potential of every child and a conviction that we can and must do better for them. Schools are the drivers of change. To work with CSS partner schools, to help enhance the things that work best, and to develop ways of expanding CSS solutions and approaches to more schools and students in North Carolina will be an extraordinary opportunity." For 19 years, Beshon has used the transformative power of education to change the lives of young people and their families. "I have witnessed the life-changing impact of a quality education and wholeheartedly believe that every young person deserves one," she shares. "My daily motivation and drive comes from the optimism that it is possible to provide comprehensive and supportive programming to schools that will enhance the overall life opportunities for students." See [here](#) for the bios of Joyce, Beshon, and all CSS staff and [here](#) for details on open positions at CSS.

Finally, I hope you will check out our [upcoming webinar](#) that will explore how CSS is supporting Community Schools in New York City, and that you will join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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!