



May 25, 2016

Dear Friends,

"What? Are you kidding?" This was the puzzled response of a participant in our May 3 one-day training for **Peer Group Connection-Middle School (PGC-MS)** school faculty advisors when asked to provide feedback as to how the training could have been improved. While we continuously strive to make our training experiences better and better, we loved the sentiment that it would be outlandish to even consider improvements! I feel a bit uncomfortable tooting our own horn like this, but I can't help but share some of the fantastic feedback we received on this training:

- I can't imagine what would/could make this better.
- I have gained a new perspective on how to run my class, my craft, my life. I have learned not to bypass validating students and their feelings.
- The facilitators are amazing and authentic. I also wish PGC was mandated in ALL schools. It is as important as the four major subjects.



Three leaders join CSS board. I am thrilled to welcome three new members to CSS's Board of Trustees:

- ***Fatimah Burnam-Watkins***, Senior Vice-President of Executive Leadership & Learning, Teach For America
- ***Andrew Ferrer***, Principal, General Atlantic
- ***Stacey Herndon***, Senior Portfolio Manager and Vice President, PNC Institutional Investments

Fatimah, Andrew, and Stacey are deeply committed to CSS's work and vision and collectively bring to our board extraordinary talents. See [here](#) for complete bios of all CSS board members.

Live broadcast from Newark, NJ's East Side High School to explore strategies for family engagement. Please [join](#) us on Tuesday, June 7 as we broadcast live from East Side High School in Newark, NJ for an in-depth conversation with PGC peer leaders and

faculty advisors about their successful approaches to family engagement. As featured by [Teach For All](#), East Side's PGC group recently planned and executed a Family Night event that brought together over 150 students and caretakers to help encourage positive parent-teen communication and raised \$1,000 for St. John's Soup Kitchen. As a result, East Side has been chosen as the winner of CSS's **2016 Family and Community Impact Challenge**, and will receive special prizes and a luncheon at school. Great work, East Side!



Finally, I hope you will check out [open positions](#) at CSS and join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daniel'.

Daniel 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!