



September 29, 2016

Dear Friends,

**"PGC has an impact on student attendance because it motivates students to come to school by making them feel important and making the school environment feel safe."**

When I read in a recent [blog post](#) this quote by Naim Smith, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader and [Peer Group Connection \(PGC\)](#) peer leader at Baltimore's Coppin Academy High School, I was struck by how it captured the goals of our work: *to advance efforts of schools to develop students into leaders who help make their schools safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring.* I'm thrilled to share



that *72 schools across 6 states* (listed [here](#)) have committed to this vision for the coming year by joining the CSS family for the first time or by expanding their work with CSS this year. We are honored to be their partners and look forward many more students echoing Naim's sentiments.

**"Based on the findings, we developed a professional development program for our teachers focused on discussing the relationships between teachers and students. *Our students ran the training* [emphasis added]."**

Yet another powerful quote comes from an outstanding [article](#) in The School Superintendents Association award-winning magazine, *School Administrator*. Written by David Aderhold, Ed.D., Superintendent of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District in New Jersey, the article highlights the district's effort to shift its focus to deep and meaningful learning. Dr. Aderhold features our partnership with the district to implement a CSS solution known as [Campaign Connect](#), which he deems a fundamental initiative in this effort. Campaign Connect's data-informed and relationship-driven process increases the effectiveness of schools and districts by starting with issues related to school culture/climate and meeting students' social and emotional needs.

Finally, we hope you will [join](#) us at the [GradNation Community Summit](#) we are convening October 13 in Camden, New Jersey:

**Forging Links Between  
Social-Emotional Learning & Academic Achievement:  
A Community-Wide Imperative**

**Thursday, October 13, 2016 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Rutgers University-Camden Campus Center  
(326 Penn St., Camden, NJ 08102)**

This one-day conference, hosted by CSS and sponsored by [America's Promise Alliance](#) and [New Jersey Health Initiatives](#), invites educators and community stakeholders into a day of conversations designed to move us beyond siloes of thought and instead support school communities to actively forge multiple, multi-layered links between social-emotional learning, student wellness, and student achievement.



Presented by



I hope to see you there.

All the best,

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

Daniel F. Oscar  
CEO

P.S. Please check out [open positions](#). And, 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.