



CENTER FOR
SUPPORTIVE
SCHOOLS

December 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

On November 17, New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña visited New Millennium Business Academy in the South Bronx. CSS serves as Lead Community Based Organization (Lead CBO) to New Millennium as part of NYC's Community Schools Initiative. During her visit, Chancellor Fariña spent time in four classrooms and observed the deep collaboration that has led to an authentically shared-leadership approach to moving the school forward that includes the school, the district, and CSS. The Chancellor shared, "We believe that meeting students and families where they are and meeting their whole needs - socio-emotional as well as academic - is a critical part of our work as educators, and that's why we've invested in 130 new Community Schools. I thank CSS for their hard work to better serve students and families, and their true partnership with our schools."



From L to R: CSS Senior Community Schools Director Paul Neenos, NYC DOE District 9 Superintendent Leticia Rodriguez-Rosario, NYC Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, New Millennium Business Academy Principal Dorald Bastian, NYC Office of Renewal Schools Principal Mentor Coach Sandra Kase.

In addition, I want to congratulate our partners at Fordham Leadership Academy and Urban Science Academy, two schools for which we serve as Lead CBO. They were two of only four NYC Renewal Schools who received special commendation from the NYC Department of Education for greatest increase in daily attendance and greatest decrease in chronic absenteeism since November 2015.

On a personal note, I am so proud to have been featured as **Tiger of the Week** by *Princeton Alumni Weekly* a few weeks ago. In the [article](#), I share some of my own experiences with mentoring and discuss the profound impact of CSS's peer mentoring work in schools across the country.

Finally, at this time of year when we stop to reflect on all we have to be thankful for, I wish to extend my deep gratitude for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for CSS's work. On behalf of the CSS staff, we hope you will continue to partner with us in support of our long-term vision, which is nothing short of ensuring that every student in the United States attends schools that are safe, supportive, engaging, and inspiring places that enable them to reach their full potential.

All the best,

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.