



January 31, 2017

Dear Friends,

This month, CSS joins with ***MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership*** and many other friends and partners to celebrate the 15th annual **National Mentoring Month**, a national campaign that focuses attention on the need for mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for young people, as well as how we can work together to increase their numbers.

Since 1979, CSS has been helping schools across the country leverage their most powerful resource - the students themselves - to serve as mentors to younger peers and help make their schools safer and more supportive, engaging, and inspiring. Our peer mentoring program, **Peer Group Connection (PGC)**, has recently been recognized by several of our national partners for its positive impact on youth:



- PGC has been selected by the ***United States Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3)*** team as one of two grantees to be **in the spotlight** on their website for the month of January.
- ***Opportunity Nation*** features PGC in this **blog post** as a powerful tool to help combat youth disconnection, the one factor every year with the strongest relationship to a community's *Opportunity Score*, a measure of economic, educational, and civic factors that impact opportunity.
- ***Spark*** also feature PGC in this **blog post** for its positive impact on the middle and high school transitions.

I also want to congratulate our Community School partner, Frederick Douglass Academy IV, on winning the *Nike Community School Attendance Challenge*! On December 5, 2016, the New York City Department of Education's Office of Community Schools teamed up with NIKE and State Bags to challenge all New York City Community Schools to a month-long attendance improvement competition. Schools that saw the greatest improvement in average daily attendance over two weeks were set to win NIKE and State Bags swag to award to students with the most improved attendance. Great job, FDA IV!

Finally, we hope you will join us for one of our *Lunch and Learn* webinars for the month of February:

***Effective Peer Mentoring:
Peer Group Connection (PGC) in New York City***
Wednesday, February 8
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
[Register here](#)

Campaign Connect-New Jersey: A Data-Informed, Relationship-Driven Approach to Transforming School Culture and Climate
Wednesday, February 22
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
[Register here](#)

Warmest wishes,

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.