



... get to know each other as real people.



April 7, 2017

Dear Friends,

I was stuck by a blog post written by my colleague, Dr. Margo Ross, which appears on the Character.org website, and am excited therefore to share an excerpt as my note to you this month:

One day after the 2016 presidential election, the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) posted a document on its website entitled, *Guidance for Reinforcing Safe, Supportive and Positive School Environments for All Students*. Recommendations included reinforcing a sense of positive school community, reinforcing acceptance and appreciation for diversity as critical American values, and helping children see other perspectives and value respectful dialogue, among many others. For nearly 40 years, CSS has helped schools tap into the power of peer mentoring as an enormously valuable tool in the character education toolkit to help achieve all of these objectives.

Peer mentoring can help create cultures of deep engagement by providing students with the safe and supportive environment they need to feel connected to school, grounded in caring relationships. This approach helps students form authentic connections and get to know one another as *real people*. It can also help students see cultural differences, understand differences, interact with other cultural groups in ways that recognize and value differences, and actively foster the development of intercultural understanding.

Now more than ever, all schools in all of our nation's communities would benefit greatly from peer mentoring approaches that help young people form connections, improve relationships, reduce prejudice, and understand and appreciate difference.

Want to read more? Find the full post [here](#).

Warmest wishes,

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.