



## Visiting Snow Hill, NC; EdWeek; and 2nd federal grant in 2 months!



November 30, 2017

Dear Friends,

Last month, I had the pleasure of visiting Greene Central High School, located in the small, rural town of Snow Hill, North Carolina, to observe their [Peer Group Connection \(PGC\)](#) program in action. Once again I was moved by the many forms that leadership takes, from that found within the soft spoken 12th grader Tyreke Speight serving as peer leader for his second year to the self-deprecating and warm Mr. David Bryant, who had graduated from the school years earlier, serving as faculty advisor.

To my surprise (seriously!), just a few weeks later, Greene Central's PGC program was featured in an [Education Week article](#) about the power of mentoring as a lever for increasing student engagement. The incredible and inspiring Assistant Principal Uvonda Willis shared, "We tell people, this transforms your entire school culture. These peer leaders, they become a part of these children's lives. These kids look to them to be what they don't have in their own lives."

North Carolina is one of four states in which researchers will study PGC thanks to a five-year federal grant just [awarded](#) to CSS as part of the U.S. Department of Education's *Education Innovation and Research (EIR)* 2017 competition. With this funding, CSS will expand PGC into **middle schools** serving high need communities in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina.

You can read more about this federal grant project, as well as one I shared with you last month from the U.S. Department of Justice in a new [post](#) on MENTOR's blog, written by my colleague Dr. Margo Ross.

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.