

Site Coordination and the Power of Relationships

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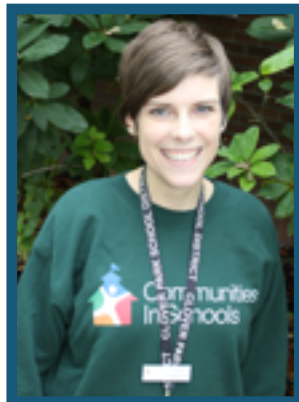
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[John Gomperts](#), president & CEO of [America’s Promise](#), the nation’s largest partnership of organizations, communities and individuals committed to improving the lives of young people, wrote in a recent report, “Add relationship poverty to the list of challenges facing young people who leave high school before graduating. It’s not a lack of love or family, but a lack of access and connection to people who can help lead them to a more promising future. That’s what’s missing for millions of our nation’s young people.”

Site coordinators are the backbone of CISL. They have offices in the schools, collaborate with school staff, cultivate partnerships, track student progress and, most importantly, build trusting relationships with students who need additional support. The mission of Communities In Schools —surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life—is illustrated in the example below.



Leah Livingston, CPHS Site Coordinator

Sierra (name changed) was not the type of student who typically draws a lot of attention to herself. When she started summer school at Clover Park High School (CPHS) in June, she had no idea she was about to be noticed.

Ninth-grade summer school ran from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays for four weeks this summer. CPHS Site Coordinator Leah Livingston was asked to call students the week before summer school started to remind them of the opportunity and explain incentives for attendance, such as prizes and field trips.

One day, Sierra did not arrive on the bus in the morning. When the first half of the day ended and students were on their 20 minute break, Sierra walked in through the back door. She had missed the bus that morning

and decided to walk several miles on a beautiful summer morning when there were plenty of excuses to just stay home. That’s why Leah noticed Sierra.

Since that day, Leah has been intentionally building a relationship with Sierra. At Warrior 101, CPHS’ four-day ninth-grade orientation, Leah encouraged Sierra to apply for the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) elective offered to just 50 incoming ninth-graders. When she made it into AVID and needed help getting some of the required school supplies, she asked Leah for help. When she heard that she was required to complete five hours of community service each year as part of graduation requirements, she reached out to Leah to volunteer at Tyee Park Elementary. Sierra has even chosen to come to extended learning a few days a week where Leah is involved as part of the extended learning team. While Sierra still struggles at times to make good choices and stay focused on school, she doesn’t have to do it alone because she’s been noticed.

Survey results of students in the Ninth-Grade Summer School Program

The number of Clover Park High School students who regularly participated doubled from the previous summer.

- 81% said that the academic part of summer school helped them feel more prepared for the next school year
- 81% said the field trip/trips to a college helped them think more about their future
- 81% said they felt connected to at least one adult on the summer school staff

In interviews with 120 young people and a survey of 2,800 more, young people told us they need respect, not judgment. They need resources — bus passes, a ride to school, a meal, a job, a chance. They need people to show care through actions, not advice. They need an anchor, not a hero. And they need a web of support, a healthy, supportive community of their own.

Don't Quit On Me: What Young People Who Have Left School Say About the Power of Relationships

The title, "Don't Quit on Me," echoes the many young people who expressed gratitude to those who didn't give up on them and represents a call to action for caring adults. We can't quit on young people dealing with tremendous adversity, especially now that we know how powerful relationships are in engaging and re-engaging young people in education.

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If you want to make a real and lasting impact on young people in Lakewood, consider volunteering as a mentor or tutor or making a financial contribution.

To make a donation or sign-up to volunteer go to www.lakewood.ciswa.org or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CISLakewood

Tyee Park Elementary Students Learn About College Life

Tyee Park Site coordinator, Ruth Rosas, grew up in poverty in Los Angeles. With support from AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) mentors, she secured a scholarship to University of Puget Sound (UPS). In order to inspire students in the extended learning program about going to college, she arranged a field trip to her alma mater. Only a few of the 35 students on the trip had set foot on a college campus so the experience was eye-opening. Ruth explained that with hard work and dedication, they could go to college and become whatever they wanted to be.



Ruth Rosas, Tyee Park Site Coordinator



Ruth Rosas and some of her students visiting the University of Puget Sound

The students were amazed at everything they saw, from the library, to the dorms, to the track and field; they couldn't believe that students lived and ate and went to school in the same place. A fourth-grade student told Ruth that she was writing a report for class about the trip to UPS. Two other students said they wanted to go to UPS when they got older.

Extended Learning 2014-15



87%

missed one or less days of school per month



73%

met the Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) goals

Last year, **452** students participated in extended learning programs at Oakwood, Southgate, Tillicum and Tyee Park Elementary Schools and Lochburn Middle School. Results were very positive, as shown on the graph to the right.

The above results reflect the outstanding efforts of administrators, teachers and after-school staff who do "whatever it takes" to give students the extra help they need at school.



Mentoring Program

Students share about their mentors

We were looking up colleges and I said I wanted to be a football player. He brought in his friend, a college football player, who told me how to stay out of trouble and not be influenced by other people who might want to drag me down." -Fourth-grade student

"I'm staying out of trouble and my future is going to be a lot better." Fifth-grade student

"My mentor supports my decisions and helps me choose right from wrong." Ninth-grade student

"He asks what I want to be when I grow up and helps me achieve that." Sixth-grade student

CISL continually screens, trains and supports mentors who meet 1:1 with students, for one hour a week, at the school. Mentors use an Activity Guide to build trusting relationships and help students to reach academic, personal and college/career awareness. Mentors meet monthly for ongoing training and support.

Students who met 16 or more times met most of the goals they set with their mentor and had great things to say about their experience:

My Mentor:

- helped me feel more confident: **94%**
- helped me feel better about school: **100%**
- helped me have a positive outlook on life: **97%**

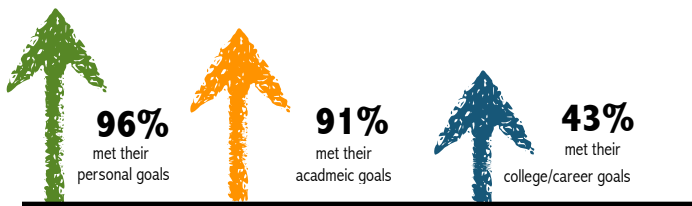
Readiness to Learn Partnership

CISL's Readiness to Learn Coordinator, Diane Formoso, is a true "champion for children." She works with schools and partners to provide resources and support for the neediest students so they come to school ready to learn. Diane also directs the work of Caring for Kids. CISL and Caring for Kids have collaborated for 12 years to provide basic need and kindergarten readiness support for thousands of children and parents.

It's hard to put a price tag on the value she adds to our local schools!



Mentor Program 2014-15



Champions For Youth Breakfast:

Many thanks to all those who participated as guests and sponsors at the annual Champions For Youth Breakfast! You helped us raise \$21,335 for kids! Your support is key to sustaining CISL site coordinators and programs.

[Key Bank, Lakewood Branch](#)
[Pierce Community College](#)
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[Harborstone Credit Union](#)
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G. Robb Cooper

Financial Report

INCOME

Federal 21st Century Grants...	\$292,665
Corporations	\$42,561
Foundations	\$127,100
Federal 21st Century.....	\$214,000
State and City.....	\$58,908
Individuals, Events & Service Clubs.....	\$35,508
United Way.....	\$25,000
AmeriCorps.....	\$21,270
Local Businesses.....	\$7,500
Lollipop Stands.....	\$828
TOTAL INCOME	\$611,340

EXPENSES

Extended Learning Staff & Program.....	\$349,002
Site Coordinators	\$114,093
Champions Mentor Program.....	\$38,886
Readiness to Learn.....	\$27,345
Fundraising.....	\$14,321
Management & General.....	\$55,747
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$599,394

Total In-Kind Contributions from Clover Park School District and Community Partners = \$247,494



Thanks to supporters of Communities In Schools of Lakewood

Special Recognition Communities In Schools of Lakewood gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations whose support is invaluable to our mission. Your generosity helps our students to be prepared for school and focused on learning. Thank you for caring.

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\$30,000+
Department of Education 21st Century Learning Centers
Discuren Foundation

\$20,000+
Americorps
City of Lakewood
Costco Wholesale
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Milgard Family Foundation
Northwest Children's Fund
United Way of Pierce County

\$15,000+
Clover Park School District
Safeco Insurance

\$5,000+
Cheney Foundation
Washing State Achievement Council (work study)
Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation
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\$4,000+
Franciscan Foundation
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Dimmer Family Foundation
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Key Bank
Lakewood Community Foundation
Norcliffe Foundation
Rotary Club of Clover Park
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Umpqua Bank
Wells Fargo

\$1,000+
Harborstone Credit Union
Korsmo Construction
Old Country Buffet
Puget Sound Energy Foundation
St. Clare Hospital
US Bank Corp

\$500+
Cash America
Clover Park Technical College
Columbia Bank
First Baptist Church of Lakewood
G. Robb Cooper
Kiwanis Club of Lakewood
LeMay Enterprises
Neil Walter Real Estate
Pierce College Foundation
Pierce Community College
Puget Sound Orthopaedics

Other Community Partners and In-Kind

- Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Blue Light Coalition
- Boy Scouts of America
- Boys and Girls Club/Hope Center
- Caring for Kids
- City of Lakewood
- Clover Park School District
- Clover Park Technical College
- Community Health Care
- Discovery Books
- Faith Communities-Churches and religious groups provide volunteers for mentoring programs and basic need resources
- Food Connection
- GEAR UP
- Joint-Base Lewis-McChird
- Kiwanis Club of Clover Park
- Lakewood First Lions Club
- Lakewood Police Department
- Lindquist Dental
- Molina Health Care
- Pierce College
- Pierce County Library
- Lakewood Library
- Tillicum Library
- Pierce County Public Works & Utilities
- Reality Sport
- Rotary Club of Clover Park
- Rotary Club of Lakewood
- St. Clare Hospital
- Tree Community Garden Program
- UPS Slater Museum
- WATCHDOGS
- West Pierce Fire and Rescue
- YMCA of Lakewood