



# Communities In Schools

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

The mission of Communities In Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

## Communities In Schools believes all students deserve five basic resources:

- A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and community

### SAVE THE DATES



**June 9-13**  
Graduation

**June 19**  
Dine Out For Kids

**Aug 15-26**  
School Tools

**Sept 29**  
Lowcountry

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Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Spring 2018

# ALL IN FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL

## CIS-Charlotte kicks off Social Capital Movement



Stephanie Cooper-Lewter, Dr. Kent Pikel, & Richard Reeves

In the early morning hours of April 20, CIS-Charlotte and more than 600 friends, partners, and students helped launch a “social capital” movement in the Queen City, “All In For Social Capital: The New Charlotte Currency.” A full house added to the energy among presenters and guests alike. All were inspired by the voices of national and local youth and educational leaders that focused on the tremendous benefits of intentional relationships with

young people and the lifelong impact they can have.

James Ford, former CMS Teacher of the Year who is now co-chair of Charlotte’s Leading On Opportunity Council, opened the program with a Charlotte “history lesson,” which gave important historical context about Charlotte’s past and the institutional policies that contributed to racial and economic inequities that still exist today.



Keynote speaker Wes Moore, author of *The Other Wes Moore* and CEO of New York City’s Robin Hood Foundation, shared his own story of “social capital” that was extended to him as a young man being raised by a single mother in a rough Baltimore neighborhood, and how those special relationships and interventions were a key element to his success. Moore related his own story to today’s youth and the challenges they are facing, especially those growing up in high poverty environments.

“The best way to protect our future,” Moore reminded the audience, “is to protect the future of others.” Moore also encouraged the students in attendance when he said to them, “Nothing is greater than the knowledge of people who wake up in the morning with the hope of you.”

Following Moore, the learning and inspiration continued with a Q & A between Richard Reeves, Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, and Dr. Kent Pikel, CEO of Search Institute in Minneapolis, an internationally recognized research organization dedicated to strengthening youth outcomes in schools, families, out-of-school time programs, and communities. Dr. Pikel highlighted the importance of building developmental relationships with youth in specific and intentional ways in order to get the best outcomes.

*(continued on page 3)*

*In case you missed it, we are sharing the following Viewpoint article that was published in The Charlotte Observer on 3/24/18. It was co-authored by Molly Shaw, CIS Executive Director; Stephanie Cooper-Lewter, Executive Director of Leading On Opportunity; and Brian Collier, Executive Vice President with Foundation For The Carolinas.*

## THE ‘SECRET SAUCE’ for Charlotte’s Inequity

Whether we realize it or not, many of us have gotten to where we are in large part because of connections, networks and exposure. Those of us with broad networks have significant opportunity. Yet even the smartest, most motivated people may struggle to realize their dreams if they lack access. The network of relationships that enable people to connect and society to advance is known as social capital.

In the Leading On Opportunity task-force report, social capital is defined as the building of relationships and networks that may very well be the “secret sauce” for helping economically disadvantaged youth navigate systems, gain access to information, and open doors to resources and opportunity. It could change the future lives of many of our community’s children.

The task force named social capital as one of two factors that influence all recommendations in their report; the other cross-cutting factor is segregation. It is no coincidence that our abundance of segregation and lack of social capital are inextricably linked. They always have been. Take 20 years ago, when social capital was a new term after Harvard researcher Robert Putnam conducted a national study. At that time, Charlotte delivered some of the lowest social capital scores across the country, particularly on items related to inter-racial trust and informal socialization. In other words, segregation existed physically, socially and emotionally.

Eighteen years later, segregation has only intensified in Charlotte. We have twice as many residents living in poverty and three times as many living in already poor areas compared to just ten years ago. Our city is economically and racially divided. The stark lines between poverty and prosperity on our Charlotte-Mecklenburg map tell a modern day tale of two cities. Building the right kind of social capital could help foster trust and connect our neighborhoods.

There are three types of social capital: bonding, bridging and linking. Bonding social capital is the network of relationships among people who are similar (in terms of race, culture, economics, etc.). Bonding social capital creates belonging and security, which have great value. It’s also insular and preserves resources within its own system. Charlotte has mastered bonding.

Alternatively, bridging and linking social capital occur when people connect and share across difference. Relationships based on exchange have the power to move someone into a new space (physically, emotionally or economically). According to the Brookings Institute’s Richard Reeves, these relationships “turn vague hopes into active aspirations.” Bridging and linking capitalizes on the multiple strengths that exist when people who are different come together for a common goal. Charlotte has not excelled at these – we can get better.

Here is what we know: Bridging and linking happens when people who are in different circles (racial, cultural, economical) move beyond those circles to truly connect. This takes a commitment to developing relationships. It takes a belief in reciprocity. Bridging and linking social capital is not charity – it is community building. It takes the courage to step outside of what feels comfortable in an effort to build something greater. We believe it’s going to take a movement.

Twenty years ago, Charlotte heard the social capital call and missed it. Then, we ranked at the bottom for community trust. Today, we stand at the bottom for economic mobility. Now is the time to launch the movement. We are asking you to share your access and opportunities and stand for what Charlotte can be. Please join us. Charlotte can be the city that sets the bar for creating opportunity and building trust through social capital.

SOCIAL CAPITAL IS THE SPARK THAT IGNITES A TRANSFORMATION  
• SOCIAL CAPITAL IS THE AGENT FOR CHANGE • SOCIAL CAPITAL  
IS SHARING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES • SOCIAL CAPITAL IS  
AN EXCHANGE • SOCIAL CAPITAL CONNECTS COMMUNITIES



# ALL IN FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL *continued from page 1*

“Relationships are the active ingredient in changing outcomes for kids,” said Dr. Pekel. “Kids who feel they are understood and accepted, can then be challenged to grow.”

Reeves and Pekel were then joined onstage by Moore and local leaders Stephanie Cooper-Lewter, Executive Director of Leading On Opportunity, and George Metz, a CIS Site Coordinator at West Charlotte High School. Reeves led a discussion that centered around panelists’ personal experiences with “social capital” and the types of social capital exchanges that would be most beneficial to students, as well as advice to young people about what they can do to get the most out of mentoring relationships and opportunities.

One of the highlights of the morning was the “Social Capital Call” that culminated the event. Among the 600 guests in the audience were approximately 70 high school students, consisting of CIS students and a group from Ardrey Kell High School. Led by Luke Kissam, President & CEO of Albemarle Corporation, CIS-Charlotte Executive Director Molly Shaw, and Federico Rios, International & Integration Manager with the City of Charlotte, the “Capital Call” asked individuals and businesses to think about the types of “social capital” they could offer students, and then make a commitment by filling out a Social Capital “Deposit Slip.”

Finally, guests were encouraged to interact with the students present and hear directly from them about their career aspirations, goals, and the kinds of social capital opportunities that would benefit them most.

To date, more than 180 companies and individuals have pledged to provide 462 social capital experiences for CIS students! CIS would like to thank the following companies for being among the first of these to make a “social capital” commitment to our students:

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bank of America             | Miles McClellan Construction |
| NJR Construction, LLC       | Queen City Catering          |
| London Stock Exchange Group | CGR Creative                 |
| Men for Meck                | Norsan Media                 |
| Novant Health               | Sonic Automotive, Inc.       |
| Vanguard                    |                              |

**Many thanks to the Albemarle Foundation and Foundation For The Carolinas for their sponsorship of ALL IN FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL.**



## MAKE YOUR SOCIAL CAPITAL DEPOSIT

There are many ways that individuals and companies can exchange “social capital” with our students. You can mentor a student, review college essays, provide job shadows or paid summer internships, conduct practice interviews, coordinate a community service project, to name just a few.



### MEET GEORGE METZ OUR NEW SOCIAL CAPITAL COORDINATOR

[gmetz@cischarlotte.org](mailto:gmetz@cischarlotte.org) | 704.943.9472

CIS is excited to introduce George Metz as our new Social Capital Coordinator. George previously served on our Project LIFT Team at West Charlotte High School as a CIS Site Coordinator working with adjudicated youth. In this new position, he will work with companies and groups to coordinate social capital connections and opportunities to support post-secondary and career options for our students. Contact George to learn how you or your company can make your Social Capital Deposit!



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### SEARCH INSTITUTE WEBSITE

<http://search-institute.org>

#### ALL IN FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL VIDEO

<http://bit.ly/SocCapVideo>



# ALBEMARLE FOUNDATION Donates \$100,000 to Support CIS Programming

The Albemarle Foundation recently committed \$100,000 to CIS-Charlotte to support the agency's programming and its efforts to promote the need for and connect "social capital" to students. Additionally, Albemarle Foundation has agreed to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$90,000 on all donations received by CIS-Charlotte from now through June 30, 2018.

"We are thrilled with this generous gift from Albemarle and are especially excited about the matching gift commitment," said Molly Shaw, CIS-Charlotte Executive Director. "The match will allow us to leverage Albemarle's generous support to encourage gifts from others before our fiscal year end. Most importantly, we're extremely grateful that Albemarle believes in our core mission to help every young person in our community have access to the relationships, resources, and social capital exchanges they need to reach their full potential and be prepared for their future."

A portion of the donation was designated to support CIS-Charlotte's efforts to highlight the importance of developmental relationships and "social capital" connections as a powerful tool to provide students with life-changing access and opportunities. The Albemarle Foundation was a sponsor for CIS-Charlotte's April 20 symposium, "All In For Social Capital," where more than 600 guests heard from local and national youth, research and educational leaders about the importance of developmental relationships with students and how social capital can be an agent for positive change in the community for all involved.

## YOUR DONATION MAY BE DOUBLED NOW THRU JUNE 30

Now through June 30, 2018 is a great time to give to CIS! Thanks to the generosity of the Albemarle Foundation, all donations (up to \$90,000) will be matched dollar-for-dollar if the gift is made between now and June 30, the end of our fiscal year. You can make a secure donation in any amount at

[www.cischarlotte.org/donate](http://www.cischarlotte.org/donate)

Luke Kissam, Chairman, President, and CEO of Albemarle Corporation, participated in the event and says the Foundation is proud to add Communities In Schools as one of its major philanthropic recipients.

"The Foundation takes seriously our commitment to the communities across the country in which our employees live and work," said Kissam. "Communities In Schools' values and mission to improve the lives of young people in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and assure that they have every resource for success at their disposal, aligns perfectly with our company values. In particular, we're excited to help CIS initiate a 'social capital movement' across the city of Charlotte, so that every company or organization can have a hand in developing Charlotte's future and the leaders of the next generation."

## CIS GOES HOLLYWOOD! Check out our latest CIS videos



### ALL IN FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL

CIS-Charlotte's video about the impact of relationships and "social capital" on students.

[bit.ly/SocCapVideo](http://bit.ly/SocCapVideo)



### FIGHTING CHRONIC SCHOOL ABSENCES

CharlotteObserver.com video about attendance, featuring CIS at Allenbrook Elementary.

[bit.ly/AttendanceAB](http://bit.ly/AttendanceAB)



### NATIONAL VIDEO - STERLING K. BROWN

CIS National FunnyOrDie.com video featuring actor Sterling K. Brown from *This Is Us*.

[bit.ly/SKBrown](http://bit.ly/SKBrown)

# CIS-CHARLOTTE GRAD Selected for National CIS Alumni Advisory Committee



Coy Brown, CSI Alumnus

CIS-Charlotte is proud to share that a local CIS-Charlotte graduate from East Mecklenburg High School, Coy Brown, was selected by CIS National to serve on the CIS National Alumni Leadership Advisory Committee. Coy was selected as one of 12 new members out of more than 50 applicants from alumni across the network. The committee provides leadership to develop and grow the CIS Alumni Leadership Network (ALN) and members serve as ambassadors for CIS in a variety of capacities.

In his application for the Alumni Advisory Committee, Coy spoke highly of his three years in CIS at East Mecklenburg, including praise for his CIS Site Coordinator and stating that “CIS was a huge building block for me becoming a more mature, responsible, and prepared individual.”

A 2016 graduate of East Meck, Coy is currently a student at N.C. A&T University, majoring in Business Management. He's also a student-athlete, participating on the cross country and track teams at the university.

Coy expects to graduate in May of 2020 and then plans to attend graduate school to obtain an M.B.A. He's interested in a career in the field of Human Resources.

## LPL Financial + Junior Achievement = FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR STUDENTS

Close to 90 CIS students from Garinger and South Mecklenburg High Schools have been learning about career planning and personal finance this school year, thanks to our partnership with LPL Financial and Junior Achievement. LPL Financial sponsors both a fall and a spring Junior Achievement Learning Symposium, prepared specifically for our students and held at Johnson C. Smith University, which donates the space for this large group. About 25 LPL employees volunteer for the entire day for each symposium to help Junior Achievement staff facilitate the very engaging and interactive curriculum.

In the Career Success symposium, students learned about such topics as communication and critical thinking skills, personal branding and job-hunting tools, career industry options such as STEM and other high-growth industries, and building strong soft skills. The Personal Finance symposium focused on understanding the fundamental elements of personal finances, such as earnings, savings, budgeting, credit, and risk management, and how to apply this knowledge to build a personal financial plan with specific goals.

The curriculum may sound serious and intense, but as one can see from the photos, the students - and adults - had fun while learning! A big thank you goes out to LPL Financial and Junior Achievement for providing this amazing opportunity for CIS students!



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Chad Lloyd

### Harding University High School

#### IMPACTING STUDENTS THROUGH SOCIAL CAPITAL

Spend just 30 minutes with Chad Lloyd and one will quickly see that he is a man on a mission. His enthusiasm and passion fuel the conversation. Chad says he feels compelled to share with others all the grace that has been shown to him over the years, and based upon his past endeavors, he appears to be well on his way. He's done mission work in El Salvador and Rwanda with Living Water International and will soon be traveling to Haiti with the organization, and he serves on the Global Impact committee at his church, Matthews United Methodist. Fortunately for Communities In Schools, Chad is currently focusing much of his energy and attention on CIS students at Harding University High School.

#### CONNECTING

Chad first learned about Communities In Schools through Boris Henderson, whom Chad has known through business connections and as a fellow Davidson College alumnus. Boris is a CIS-Charlotte graduate who later served several terms on the CIS Board of Directors. Boris connected Chad to CIS-Charlotte and Chad was soon signed up to mentor three young men – Dante, Anthony, and Royal – at Harding University High School. Of his own accord, Chad drew up an “agreement” between them, which they all signed, basically holding them accountable to each other for participation and commitment in their relationship.

#### CAREER BUILDING

Last year and this school year, Chad has been true to his word, meeting with the young men over lunch at school every other week. From his own resources, Chad paid for all three to take a skills and career interest assessment to help them discover their strengths and what careers might be a good fit. Chad identified two of the students' interest in engineering and CIS then arranged for them to spend a day with Atkins Engineering to learn about the various careers in the industry. Later that same day, Chad took them to a Knights game to celebrate their improved grades. In short, Chad has been a stellar example of a dependable mentor and personifies what “social capital” is all about.

#### ROTARY AND INTERACT

Chad's latest project with his mentees is growing to involve more students at Harding. Last summer, Chad encouraged his mentees to apply for a leadership summer camp at Davidson College. It was an amazing experience for Dante and Anthony, who were able to attend. Chad saw Dante overcome his shyness and build confidence. He



Chad Lloyd (center) with Anthony (left) and Royal (right).

saw Anthony hone his natural leadership abilities. In fact, it was at the summer camp where Anthony learned about Rotary International and how Rotary works to build membership by establishing Interact service clubs at the high school level. Anthony was pumped about the idea of initiating an Interact Club at Harding, and broached the idea with Chad. Seven months later, Harding has just received its official charter for its first student-run Interact Club, with Anthony serving as president, Royal as vice president, and more than 40 students as club members. Members recently voted to support hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico as their first service project.

#### WIDENING THE NET

Chad, who works in land acquisition with MI Homes, says he sees great potential in what the Charlotte professional community can really do to impact young lives. “I’m in real estate, and I’m paid to be an optimist,” said Chad. “I see a tremendous amount of opportunity in this town and in this state.” He is excited to “widen the net” and get other individuals and companies involved at Harding and other schools. He’s already made headway through the Interact Club by connecting Red Ventures CEO Rick Elias to help with the hurricane relief project. This past weekend, Chad and a group of Interact Club members – with videography help from a friend of Chad’s who’s in marketing with United Way in Asheville – began production on a video to promote the hurricane relief project. All of the students are learning new skills, making connections in the community, and receiving exposure to new experiences.

Towards the end of the interview for this article, Chad mentioned his “mantra” and what drives him – this quote from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

***“To serve, you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”***

Clearly Chad has taken Dr. King’s quotation to heart. CIS is grateful for his service.

*Interested in volunteer opportunities with CIS students? Contact us at [volunteer@cischarlotte.org](mailto:volunteer@cischarlotte.org).*



# LOVE DOUBLE DUTCH!

## Book Author visits Bruns Academy and Coulwood

Bruns Academy and Coulwood STEM Academy were excited to host writer, producer, and author Doreen Spicer-Dannelly on April 10. Her first book, *Love Double Dutch!*, was just published and Ms. Spicer-Dannelly wanted to visit two Charlotte-area schools and share her book with students. CIS Site Coordinator Karen Neal invited all 5th graders at Bruns Academy to hear Ms. Spicer-Dannelly talk about her career in Hollywood, what inspired her to write her first book, and the importance of exploring your dreams and goals when you are young.

At Coulwood, CIS Site Coordinator Clay Freeman selected a group of 50 sixth grade female students to meet the author. Here Ms. Spicer-Dannelly spoke about the importance of advocating for yourself as a female and not letting anyone hold you back from your dreams. She shared details about writing for Disney and her inspiration for writing her book.

Ms. Spicer-Dannelly and Park Road Books donated a signed copy of the book to each student in attendance at both schools.

Additionally, they gave extra copies of the book directly to the school for each library. Many thanks to Ms. Spicer-Dannelly and Sherri Smith, our amazing partner at Park Road Books, for helping to bring this wonderful opportunity to our students!



Book author Doreen Spicer-Dannelly, center, reads from her book, *Love Double Dutch!*, to CIS students at Bruns Academy.

## BLUE SKIES AHEAD for this CIS Senior



Congratulations to Jamya Harris, who is headed to her “dream school” this fall - the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - on a full scholarship! Jamya is a senior at West Charlotte High School in CIS and our TRIO Talent Search program, which provides career exploration and college admissions support to “first generation” college students.

In spite of multiple family moves in and out of Charlotte and attending three different high schools, Jamya remained focused on excelling inside and outside the classroom. She’s graduating with a 3.8 GPA, maintained while also working 36 hours a week at Family Dollar and serving as a Junior Business Board member at her church, United House of Prayer. Congratulations to Jamya and all of our Class of 2018 graduates!

Visit [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org) to see a full list of our Class of 2018 CIS graduates who are receiving college scholarships.



## 2016-17 Annual Report

*In schools to help kids stay in school.*

Our Annual Report for fiscal year 2016-17 is now available online at [www.cischarlotte.org/annual-report](http://www.cischarlotte.org/annual-report)

## Board of Directors

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

[www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org)  
**704.335.0601**



**Communities  
In Schools**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

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# DINE OUT FOR KIDS® Tuesday, June 19

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 19 and make plans to “Dine Out For Kids” with friends and family! More than 80 participating restaurants will donate a portion of their sales that day to benefit CIS and our mission to help kids stay in school and achieve in life. Visit [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org) to see a list of participating restaurants!



## CIS SCHOOL SITES, 2017-18

### Elementary Schools

Albemarle Road  
Allenbrook  
Billingsville  
Hidden Valley  
Highland Renaissance  
Merry Oaks  
Montclair  
Nathaniel Alexander  
Oakdale  
Rama Road  
Renaissance West  
STEAM Academy  
Sedgefield  
Shamrock Gardens  
Statesville Road  
Winterfield

### PK - 8 Schools

Ashley Park  
Berryhill  
Bruns  
Druid Hills  
Reid Park  
Walter G. Byers  
Westerly Hills

### Middle Schools

Albemarle Road  
Cochrane  
Coulwood  
Eastway  
James Martin  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
McClintock  
Ranson  
Sedgefield  
Whitewater

### High Schools

East Mecklenburg  
Garinger  
Harding University  
Independence  
Myers Park  
Olympic  
Performance  
Learning Center®  
Phillip O. Berry  
Rocky River  
South Mecklenburg  
Vance  
West Charlotte  
West Mecklenburg  
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