



February 20, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY from Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. for Friday, February 22

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WHAT: Parent Night for Latino Families

Communities In Schools (CIS) and the Parent Connection organization at Eastway Middle School are hosting an event to increase parent involvement in the schools and to help inform Latino families about preparing their children for a better future. **A bilingual psychologist from Atlanta, Dr. Amelia Turrubiates, is the featured guest speaker. She will talk about communication issues and the challenges of raising children in today's society.** Dinner will be served to invited families. Approximately 100-150 are expected to attend.

WHO: Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. (CIS) and Eastway Middle School's Parent Connection (PTA)

In addition to Eastway parents, CIS and Eastway have invited parents from the following schools:

- Albemarle Road, Hidden Valley, Merry Oaks, Shamrock Gardens, Windsor Park, and Winterfield Elementary Schools
- Albemarle, Cochrane, and Martin Luther King, Jr., Middle Schools
- Garinger High School

WHEN: Friday, February 22 - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE: Eastway Middle School – in the school's Cafeteria
1501 Norland Rd., Chlt. 28205
Phone: 980-343-6410**

Approximately 100-150 are expected to attend.

- see next page for current Dropout Statistics and "Why We Need Communities In Schools" -

Facts Related to High School Dropouts and Economic Impact

Did you know.....?

- **2,512** students dropped out of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools last year.
- **23,500** students dropped out of school last year across the state of North Carolina.
- North Carolina's high school graduation rate is only **60%**. The national average is 73%.
- **75%** of N.C. prison inmates are dropouts. The state spends about **\$600 million** annually to incarcerate 24,000 prisoners.
- **Total Lifetime Social Costs** (decreased tax revenue, welfare, public health, etc.)
 - for **ONE dropout = \$209,000**
 - for one **CLASS of Dropouts in CMS:**
2,512 dropouts in 2006-07 x \$209,000 = \$525 Million
- On average, a high school graduate earns approximately **\$9,400** more in annual income than a high school dropout, and a college graduate earns approximately **\$18,700** more in annual income than a high school graduate.

Recent CIS Success Rates

- CIS provides services to approximately **4,000** students annually in **33** Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.
- Recent Success Rates include:
 - **98%** of CIS students stayed in school
 - **88%** were promoted to the next grade
 - **90%** of CIS seniors graduated from high school
- **200+** CIS graduates are currently enrolled in colleges and universities on scholarships received with the assistance of CIS. Many of these students are the first in their families to attend college.
- CIS collaborates with more than **150** community partners – including social services agencies, businesses, faith organizations, civic groups, and health care providers – to provide support services to schools.

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