



March 28, 2007

## **MEDIA ADVISORY for THURSDAY, MARCH 29**

from Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. (CIS)

### **Media Contact:**

May Johnston  
[mjohnston@cischarlotte.org](mailto:mjohnston@cischarlotte.org)  
704-943-9447

## **“Speaking for Success” Contest – CIS High School Students will compete**

### **WHO:**

**Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. (CIS) – ThinkCOLLEGE® program**

Communities In Schools is one of the largest and most effective **dropout prevention programs** in the country. CIS of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., provides services and connects resources to more than 2,100 students annually in 25 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. CIS’s unique ThinkCOLLEGE® program provides college access information and resources to high school students enrolled in CIS (at the 10 CMS high schools where there is a CIS program).

### **WHAT:**

Each year in the Spring, CIS high school students compete in the annual **“Speaking for Success” speaking contest**. This year, approximately 15 students - representing all 10 high schools that have the CIS program – will participate in the contest. (High Schools include Phillip O. Berry, East Mecklenburg, Garinger, Midwood, Olympic, Vance, Waddell, West Charlotte, and West Mecklenburg.) The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to the college of his/her choice; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

***NOTE to MEDIA: Many of these students (not all) incorporate their challenging backgrounds and personal stories into their speeches. It’s possible that you would find a good “story within a story” about a student who has faced difficult family and personal situations, yet who has persevered and is proud to be graduating from high school and hopefully on the path to college. So hearing some of these students may yield other possible stories.***

### **WHEN:**

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

### **WHERE:**

**Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County – Auditorium on Lower Level  
310 N. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202**

### **About Communities In Schools (CIS)**

Communities In Schools is the nation’s leading community-based dropout prevention network, helping young people stay in school, successfully learn, and prepare for life by connecting needed community resources with schools. Since 1985, Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. has mobilized locally existing resources and coordinated partnerships with health and human service agencies to help thousands of at-risk students overcome academic, social, and economic barriers. In addition to providing support services to students in 25 Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools, the scope of current CIS programming also addresses college access (Think COLLEGE®), career exploration and workforce development. CIS is funded in part by Mecklenburg County, the United Way of Central Carolinas, corporate and individual support, and a generous grant from the Charlotte Merchants Foundation.

###