



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Communities In Schools Receives Continued Support from Staples Foundation for Learning**

**CHARLOTTE, NC (January 22, 2007)** – Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., (CIS) a drop-out prevention program that helps young people succeed in school, announced today it has received a \$10,000 grant from Staples Foundation for Learning. This grant will support ThinkCOLLEGE<sup>®</sup>, a college access and advisement program for high school students. The program provides information and encouragement to CIS students who want to attend college. Trained Career Advisors coordinate services for students including individual advisement, study skills instruction, career exploration, job shadowing and internships, college campus tours, admissions information, assistance with financial aid and college admission applications, and scholarships. This is the fourth grant Communities in Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg has received from Staples Foundation for Learning.

“Staples Foundation for Learning has supported our ThinkCOLLEGE<sup>®</sup> program for three years now,” said Renee’ Leak, CIS Assistant Program Director for High Schools and ThinkCOLLEGE<sup>®</sup>. “We are thrilled that the foundation believes in our program and the students we serve.”

Currently there are more than 200 CIS graduates enrolled in colleges and universities who have received assistance from the ThinkCOLLEGE<sup>®</sup> program. The majority of these students are the first in their family to attend college.

“ThinkCOLLEGE<sup>®</sup> provides disadvantaged youth with support and resources to achieve their future educational goals and become successful adults,” said Joy Errico, spokesperson for Staples Foundation for Learning. “Staples Foundation for Learning is honored to continue our support of CIS and enable them to make a positive impact on youth throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.”

### **Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**

As part of the nation’s largest and most effective dropout prevention network, the mission of Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. is to help disadvantaged young people stay in school, successfully learn, and prepare for life by connecting needed community resources with schools. Since 1985, CIS 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 Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools, the scope of current CIS programming also addresses college access, career exploration and workforce development. Visit [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org) for more information.

### **Staples Foundation for Learning**

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. is to teach, train and inspire. Founded in 2002, the foundation has contributed nearly \$9 million dollars to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Staples Foundation for Learning has also developed lasting relationships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Earth Force, Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. In 2006, Staples Foundation for Learning expanded its reach globally by teaming with Ashoka, an organization that develops and supports social entrepreneurs around the world. For more information about the foundation or how to apply for a grant, please visit [www.staplesfoundation.org](http://www.staplesfoundation.org).