

Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Receives \$10,000 Grant from Staples Foundation for Learning

Funds will Support ThinkCOLLEGE[®], A College and Career Advisement Program for Disadvantaged Youth

Charlotte, NC (March 12, 2008) – Communities In Schools (CIS) of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, a non-profit organization that helps young people stay in school and prepare for life by connecting needed community resources with schools, today announced it has received a \$10,000 grant from Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. (SFFL), a private foundation created by Staples, Inc. Funding from SFFL will support ThinkCOLLEGE[®], a college access program that offers low-income high school students college and career advisement services to prepare them for post-secondary opportunities. This is the fourth grant Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg has received from Staples Foundation for Learning since 2004, totaling \$40,000 in support for their college and career preparatory programs.



CIS students from J.T. Williams Middle School took a field trip to a Staples to accept the donated supplies and participate in the check presentation.

Throughout the year, three Staples stores in Charlotte work together to provide in-kind donations to Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The stores, located at 8322 Pineville Matthews Road; 10850 Providence Road in Charlotte; and 10031 Biddick Lane in Huntersville, have donated \$10,000 in school supplies to the organization.

“We appreciate the continued support from Staples and Staples Foundation for Learning to prepare students for the transition from high school to college or the workforce,” said Renee’ Leak, Assistant Program Director for High Schools and ThinkCOLLEGE[®] with Communities In Schools. “With this grant, we will continue providing college and career advisement programs to CIS students, offering premier resources to help them excel throughout the 2008 school year.”

“Staples Foundation for Learning continues to support and share Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg’s mission of providing at-risk youth with the educational resources needed to succeed in school and life,” said Briana Curran, manager, Staples Foundation for Learning. “ThinkCOLLEGE[®]’s unique approach enables at-risk youth to achieve their higher education and career goals.”

ThinkCOLLEGE® helps students assess and evaluate their skills to identify the best path for future success. School-based counselors provide students with information on college admission tests, financial aid and scholarships and visits to local college campuses. In addition, youth participate in job shadowing, learn resume writing and interview techniques and visit with local business leaders.

About Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc.

Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (CIS) is part of the nation's leading dropout prevention network, helping 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. CIS currently provides services to 4,000 students in 33 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. CIS is funded in part by the United Way of Central Carolinas, Mecklenburg County, and the Charlotte Merchants Foundation, as well as corporations, civic and faith organizations, and individuals.

www.cischarlotte.org

About 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 \$12 million 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 addition, Staples Foundation for Learning supports Ashoka, an organization that develops and supports social entrepreneurs around the world, in eight countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the United States. For more information about the foundation or how to apply for a grant, please visit www.staplesfoundation.org.

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