

Strengthening Communities

CS² Entrepreneurs build community support for the success of youth, particularly those facing multiple barriers. By involving a range of partners, (neighborhood groups, social service agencies, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and parents, for example), the community truly becomes invested in strengthening its schools and nurturing its young people.



"The Entrepreneurs are completely dedicated to their mission, and have brought many new and creative initiatives to our community."

— Community Representative

Partnership
Connections

Local Impact

CS² projects and activities create new options and expand academic support for large numbers of students (many of them at-risk of school failure) in 40 schools in ten communities. **Some local impacts:**

- In 2005, Entrepreneurs helped place more than 750 young people in CS²-managed, staffed, or supported internship programs.
- More than 600 local businesses and employers enhanced career opportunities for youth by offering internships, mentoring students, and "adopting" classrooms.
- Youth who participated in CS² programs showed increased motivation, confidence, and commitment to academics and to planning for their career or college.

Massachusetts CS² Network:

- Amherst
- Barnstable
- Blackstone Valley
- Brockton
- Fitchburg
- New Bedford
- Pittsfield
- Northampton/Smith Vocational High School
- Springfield



Through education and workforce development, Commonwealth Corporation increases the prosperity of vulnerable youth and adults in Massachusetts while making businesses more competitive.

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Opportunity



Connecting Youth with Opportunity



www.commcorp.org



Bringing Innovation, Vision, and Resources to Communities and Schools throughout Massachusetts



Communities and Schools for Success (CS²), a statewide educational initiative, creates innovative partnerships to lift the academic achievement of young people and to enhance their career potential.

Since 1993, CS² has inspired academic and career success in youth by engaging students, collaborating with educators, enlisting businesses, involving families, and connecting community partners with the common goal of building better futures for all students. At sites throughout the Commonwealth, CS² creates, directs, or supports ventures that:

- **Increase the capacity of schools and communities** to have a positive impact on student achievement.
- **Link student learning and experience** directly to the world of work and the broader community.

Vision Leadership

Entrepreneurial Vision

Entrepreneur (n.): Innovator. One who recognizes opportunities and organizes resources to take advantage of the opportunities.

Small teams of CS² innovators, known as Entrepreneurs, work with community and school partners (such as teachers, administrators, parents, employers, and civic leaders) to address the identified priorities of their local school district. The CS² team has three primary objectives:

- **To implement and sustain new programs and strategies** that improve engagement and motivation for students, particularly those placed at risk.
- **To mobilize community support** for schools by involving families, businesses, and community organizations.
- **To expand financial and in-kind resources** for schools and communities.

Innovation in Action

CS² Entrepreneurs excel at putting ideas into action. They tailor projects, programs, and initiatives to address the specific challenges and strengths of their local schools using strategies that focus on rigorous academics, career and youth development. At one site, the team may be hands-on at the district level, identifying program gaps, or helping to design small, personalized learning communities such as a 9th grade academy or career academy. At another, an Entrepreneur may concentrate on cultivating meaningful partnerships with business leaders that result in internships, mentors, and financial contributions. Another CS² team's focus might be coordinating after-school activities, homework clubs, and community service learning projects that bolster youth who are at risk of dropping out of school.



Catalyst

Supporting Schools

In these times of rigorous academic standards, testing, and dwindling resources, **school communities face enormous challenges. CS² teams increase the capacity of schools to address these issues** by assessing need, analyzing local data, rallying community resources, leveraging new funds, launching initiatives, coordinating programs, and sharing best practices from its statewide network of Entrepreneurs.

"The CS² Entrepreneurs are invaluable. They often represent the difference between whether an initiative will or won't happen."

— School Administrator

Ideas

