

CS² NETWORK REPORT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Engaging Youth, Inspiring Opportunities



 COMMONWEALTH
CORPORATION

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Each year, Communities and Schools for Success (CS²), our statewide dropout prevention and retention network, strives to surpass the impact we have made in prior years in the lives of young people who are often disconnected from traditional educational and career pathways.

CS² is dedicated to developing effective and diverse partnerships between communities, employers, schools, funders, and young people:

- Partnerships that are intentionally designed to recognize and cultivate the innate resilience found within young people.
- Partnerships that create multiple career and educational pathways to creatively re-engage young people, so that they can achieve success in school, the workplace, and beyond
- Partnerships that seed innovative programs and solutions based on cutting-edge research, a resiliency paradigm, and principles of cultural responsiveness
- Partnerships that unleash and embrace the potential of young people to take empowered action to better their lives and their communities

In FY 2007, CS² effectively bridged the gap between communities and schools by raising the academic performance of disconnected youth – those young people facing multiple barriers – and increasing their opportunities for success in careers.

Many changes took place this year, with new state leadership on many levels from the Governor's office down. Jobs and education are two of the highest priorities of the Patrick administration, and Commonwealth Corporation's CS² network continued to work vigorously to improve the intersection between these priorities.

Small teams of educational innovators, known as "CS² Entrepreneurs," acted as bridge builders between school districts and communities, creating connections, designing programs, raising funds, and pioneering initiatives that increase graduation rates and address workforce development. The CS² network of Entrepreneurs collaboratively developed the new systems, tools, and resources needed to further its work in a transition year.

Supported since 1993 by a combination of federal, state, local, business, and foundation funds, CS² in school year 2006-07 has taken its place as an emerging statewide incubator and think-tank for convening community stakeholders in the development of solutions for academic and career issues impacting the students we serve.

In this annual network report, we invite you to read about our challenges and achievements, many of them extraordinary. We are deeply honored to work with you – our partners, supporters, and stakeholders – and look forward to making even greater strides in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Talitha Abramsen
Senior Program Manager
Commonwealth Corporation

Executive Summary: 2006-07

Students are not ‘at risk.’ ... Students are placed ‘at risk’ when they experience a significant mismatch between their circumstances and needs, and the capacity or willingness of the school to accept, accommodate, and respond to them in a manner that supports and enables their maximum social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development.

- Hixson, J. (1993),
*Redefining the Issues:
Who’s at Risk and Why.*

OVERVIEW

Communities and Schools for Success (CS²) was established in 1993 to connect schools with community partners to develop strategies, programs, and resources that have a positive impact on student achievement. CS² is designed, managed, and supported by the Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp), a Massachusetts quasi-public organization. CS² has its roots in the national School-to-Work movement, and over time has evolved into a strategy to foster large-scale reform efforts, including the federal Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Project, Smaller Learning Communities, and 21st Century After-School Programs. With the advent of the federal government’s “No Child Left Behind” initiative, CS² has aligned its vision to focus on the needs of disengaged and underserved students.

CS² is a statewide educational initiative focused on raising students’ academic performance while providing access to work experiences and other real-world activities. Since 1997, an earmark in the state budget has funded CS². **Line Item No. 7027-0016 of the FY 2007 budget for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided: \$734,400 for the state’s matching grant for the CS-squared program at the Commonwealth Corporation.**

The CS² network increasingly addresses and engages the specific needs and assets of youth who are disconnected from traditional educational and career paths. CS² believes that young people are not “at-risk,” but rather, are “placed at-risk” by multiple risk factors within our society. Across the Commonwealth, CS² cultivates school-community partnerships and replicates promising practices that nurture young people’s resilience, so they can flourish in school and the workplace, and ultimately transform their society for the better.

CS² creates innovative collaborations between communities and school districts through the work of small teams of change agents, known as “CS² Entrepreneurs,” in each site.

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



October 2006 CS² Symposium: CS² Entrepreneurs from New Bedford and California engage in dialogue about issues of educational equity.

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL-TO-COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR

CS² Entrepreneurs play a critical role within their schools, school districts, and communities. They:

- Develop and implement new programming that addresses the educational and career needs of youth placed at greatest risk for academic failure or dropping out of school
- Leverage new funding sources – public, private, and in-kind
- Lead system-wide initiatives for change (school or community-wide)
- Cultivate and sustain strong community partnerships to support young people's achievement

During 2006-07, teams of CS² Entrepreneurs created and supported a wide range of initiatives and activities, working to:

- Improve, enrich, or expand in-school programs and services
- Make high-quality connections for young people to workplaces and careers
- Build and sustain innovative programming for after-school and other out-of-school time
- Mobilize community support for and involvement in schools through local partnerships

STATEWIDE IMPACT OF THE CS² NETWORK IN 2006-07

Across the nine CS² sites in Massachusetts, 19 Entrepreneurs created, directed, or supported over 120 programs, projects and initiatives that addressed needs in the above four areas. An overview of statewide results includes the following:

Program Reach

- 47 schools participated across the nine CS² communities
- 1,761 teachers partnered with CS² in programs and activities for their students
- Over 40,000 students were active in CS² initiatives, many of whom were previously disengaged from their school communities

Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) Initiatives

- Significant local capacity added by CS² to DOE initiatives at little or no cost
- CS² managed or staffed Connecting Activities (CA) programs in five communities, but received CA funding in only one
- In three of four communities, Entrepreneurs secured state grants for and managed MCAS work/learning programs but received no salary under those grants

Business and Community Connections

- More than 1,000 businesses across the Commonwealth were involved in CS² projects this year
- Over 650 students took part in career-related internships
- More than 600 community organizations partnered with CS² on career and youth development initiatives, academic support programs, and community service learning opportunities

Leveraging Resources for Schools

- CS² teams raised over \$2.7 million in public and private grants and cash contributions – a more than 3:1 ratio of funds raised for each dollar invested by the state
- In addition, funds invested by local communities to support their CS² teams brought the total results to over \$3 million leveraged by the state budget earmark – a ratio of 4:1

Amounts raised by or invested in CS² reflect our continuing ability to successfully leverage the Massachusetts State Legislature's dollar investment.

CS² SITES

In school year 2006-07, CS² Entrepreneurs were based in nine participating school districts/communities throughout Massachusetts:

- Amherst Regional Public Schools
- Barnstable Public Schools
- Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (pilot site)
- Brockton Public Schools
- Fitchburg Public Schools
- City of New Bedford / New Bedford Public Schools
- Pittsfield/Berkshire Community Action Council YouthBuild Program (pilot site)
- Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School/Northampton
- Springfield Public Schools



CS² Entrepreneurs from Blackstone Valley and Springfield listen to the latest data on the achievement gap offered by national experts.

Aligning with Other State-level Programs

CS² Entrepreneurs partnered at the local level with:

- Pathways to Success by 21 (P21)
- Youth Councils of local Workforce Investment Boards
- The state-funded summer jobs program

Support Provided by Commonwealth Corporation to the CS² Network

Technical assistance and coaching tailored to each CS² Community's specific need helped entrepreneurs by:

- Linking CS² sites to regional and statewide trends
- Increasing visibility for local CS² sites
- Supporting programs with research and program design-related technical assistance
- Connecting CS² teams to national, state, and regional conversations and events

Professional Development

Highlights this year included five trainings for CS² members – incubators for best practices across the state:

- October 2006: *CS² Symposium: Questions, Strategies, and Research Addressing Minority Student Achievement*
- December 2006: *CS² Winter Colloquium: Reconsidering School Policies And Practices in a Multicultural Context* (presenter: Dr. Sonia Nieto)
- March 2007: *Graduation Rate Summit: Cultural Proficiency*
- March and April 2007: *CS²/WIA Joint Network Drop-out Prevention Trainings: Mentoring Training* (with speaker Dr. Susan Weinberger)
- May 2007: *Internal CS² Network Meeting: Drop-out Prevention: High Standards and High Graduation Rates*

For more information about Professional Development offerings, visit www.commcop.org/cs2/resources.html.

Resilience (n.): an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.



Fitchburg's CS² Entrepreneur and administrators reflect on essential questions related to minority student achievement.

DIALOGUES ON DISENGAGED YOUTH

Commonwealth Corporation also connected CS² network members to state and national policy discussions and forums where Entrepreneurs gained current knowledge and data, including:

- *High Schools for the Future II Conference*
- *The Graduation Rate Summit*
- *National Drop-out Prevention Conference*

Entrepreneurs in turn provided recommendations to state legislators based on their experience from the field, to help inform current dropout prevention legislation.

HIGHLIGHTS: LOCAL PROJECTS AND OUTCOMES

In 2006-07, there were many noteworthy CS² achievements at the local level. They are described fully in the pages that follow. Here are just two:

- The Amherst CS² site was invited to present at the *National Minority Student Achievement Network Conference* about their action-research course where high-school students of color take a leadership role in efforts to eliminate the achievement gap in their school
- The Brockton CS² site led a successful grant writing process for the community: they were one of seven cities nationwide that received a \$492,000 Federal Department of Labor, Multiple Pathways grant

In general, key activities and outcomes were advanced throughout the year in two priority areas:

Projects Focused on Disengaged Youth

Designed to help young people placed at risk of school failure or who need additional support to successfully make the transition to adulthood, CS²'s efforts included:

- MCAS-related support, including alternative approaches to skills building
- Direct case management delivering academic, social or career support: Outcomes included increased rates of promotion among 9th graders, improved academic skills, higher engagement, and increased homework completion
- Hands-on, work-based learning opportunities
- Funding secured and oversight for after-school or out-of-school enrichment activities
- Leadership for local systems-change to improve academic and career outcomes

Projects Addressing Broader Populations

CS² teams planned, directed, and supported many projects that, although including disengaged students, reached beyond this group, in some cases becoming school-wide or district-wide initiatives.

- In-school programs and services, including community service learning, curriculum development, student recognition programs, and career and college planning
- Programs that placed students in accredited school-year internships, plus management of district-wide career development sequences and services
- Fundraising, management, promotion, and recruitment of students for after-school and other out-of-school programs
- Community outreach, parent/family involvement, and local partnership development

The charts that follow summarize the statewide impacts of CS² – both human and financial.

Statewide Impact of CS²

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

figure 1

BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN CS² PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES (2005-07 SCHOOL YEARS)

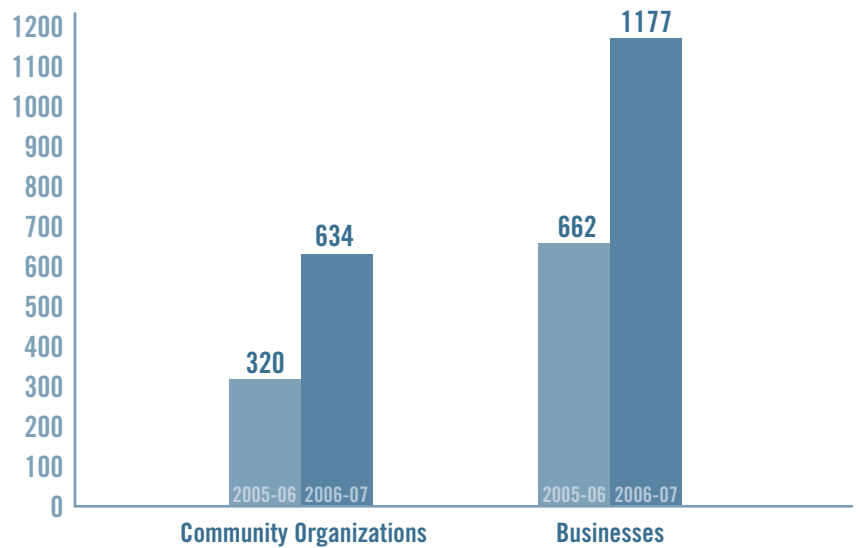
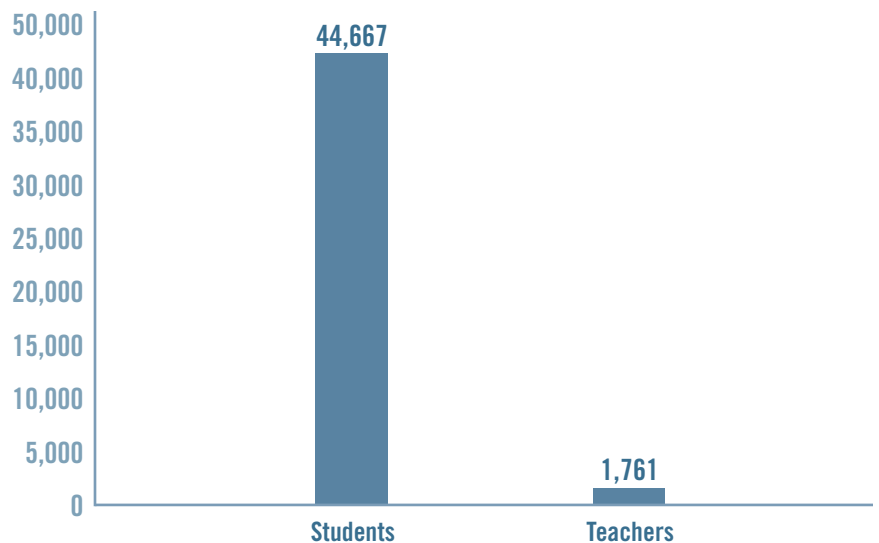


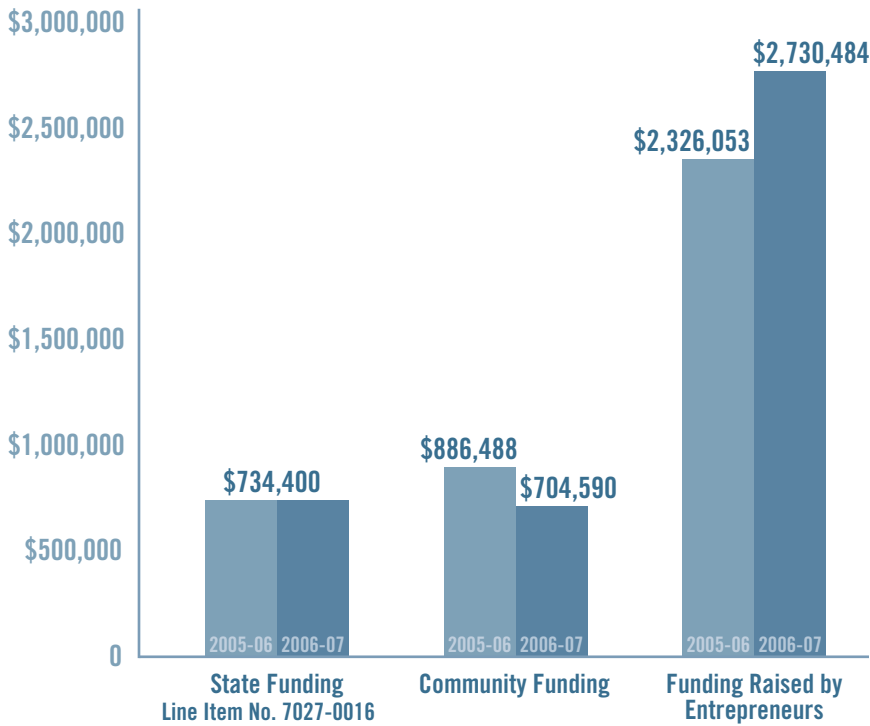
figure 2

STUDENTS & TEACHERS IN CS² PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES (2006-07)



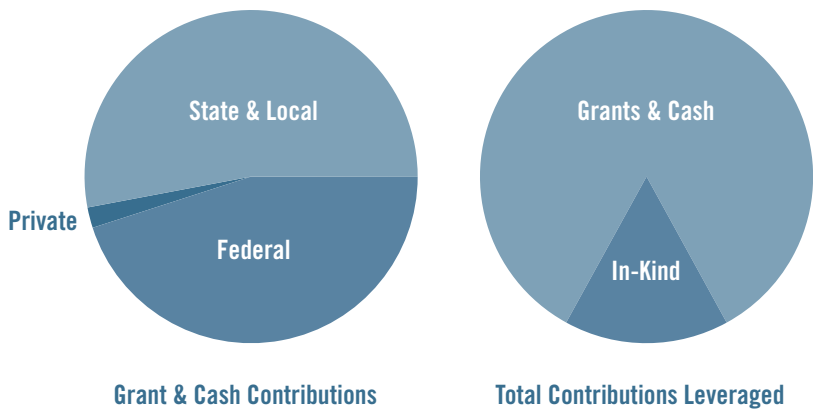
CS² FUNDING & FUNDRAISING (2005-07)

figure 3



FUNDING SECURED BY CS² ENTREPRENEURS (2006-07)

figure 4



Type	Amount
Grants & Cash Contributions	
Federal	\$1,289,936
State & Local	\$1,376,558
Private	\$54,755
Total Grants & Cash Contributions	\$2,730,484
In-Kind Contributions	\$507,561
Total Grants/Cash & In-Kind Contributions	\$3,238,045

Amherst Regional Public Schools

Amherst, Massachusetts



Entrepreneurs: Sherry Balzano and Nunia Mafi (not pictured)

ARHS instituted a new program this year entitled Senior Year Options Program. This program has allowed ALL seniors regardless of their post-graduate plans to partake in an experiential learning program. Students attend a seminar focusing on topics to prepare them for the transition to the “Real World” and also engage in a sixty-hour practical learning experience in the Amherst Regional Community.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

In 2006-07, CS² Entrepreneurs at Amherst Regional High School developed and managed several programs designed for high school youth who were under-prepared or in jeopardy of not graduating. Their strategies dynamically engaged and directly empowered youth while providing academic enrichment, career and social supports, and alternative educational environments, resulting in student gains.

Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Leadership Seminar

A CS² Entrepreneur facilitated a second-year course to empower student leaders of color – through scholarship, leadership, and action – to investigate why the achievement gap persists. Fifteen students enrolled in this three-semester, small learning-community seminar. In addition, she advised MSAN students who developed action plans designed to close the gap at Amherst Regional High School.

The Entrepreneur also advised six student representatives and joined them in presenting their action-research approaches at the *National Minority Student Achievement Network Conference* in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She participated in workshops and focus groups about closing the achievement gap with advisors from MSAN member schools around the nation. She also designed a pilot mentoring program that teamed up 15 Crocker Farm Elementary School students of color with 15 students of color enrolled in the MSAN course at the high school.

STRIVE Peer-to-peer Mentoring Program

Academic proficiency and youth development are goals of the STRIVE Program. This year, CS² supported 60 partnerships – a total of 120 students – in a year long, peer-to-peer mentoring program specifically for students of color. The STRIVE Program was redesigned with a new curriculum, and leadership was provided for bimonthly mentor meetings. In addition, fifteen 11th-graders were selected to serve as mentors for fifteen 8th-graders for the next three years.

Prep Academy

The second CS² Entrepreneur taught a class for 9th-grade females who needed additional support to make a successful academic transition from middle school to high school. She served as liaison between students, teachers, and parents and helped students improve their communication, organizational, and study skills.

Senior Year Options Program

New in 2006-07, this program gave students a variety of choices for learning outside the classroom setting and a weekly seminar to improve skills in communication, financial planning, applying to college, and securing a job.

After-school Homework Club

Geared towards youth in jeopardy of academic failure, the club engaged 20 students after school, four days a week. CS², three paraprofessionals, and four professionals provided support. Funding was secured to keep the school library open as an additional resource for students.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

CS² builds community support for the success of youth, particularly those facing multiple barriers. By involving a range of partners – for example, neighborhood groups, social service agencies, local businesses and institutions – the Entrepreneurs help close the gap regarding important resources for students.

Internships

CS² placed and supported over 75 students over three trimesters in community-based internships. The Entrepreneur taught a weekly seminar that included digital portfolios as a course requirement, incorporating technology into the experience.

UMASS Black Student Union Mentoring Program

This year, CS² continued to foster a new partnership between the Amherst site and the Black Student Union (BSU) at UMASS Amherst, recruiting 20 mentors of color from BSU to work with students at Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) next school year.

Amherst College TEACH Program

A new partnership was formed between Amherst Regional High School and the Amherst College TEACH program for one-to-one academic tutoring sessions for ARHS students. The Entrepreneur participated in community service events, monthly TEACH meetings, and led three mentor orientations.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Grants

An Entrepreneur worked with a MSAN student to secure a \$2,000 Amherst Area Educational Alliance (AAEA) Grant that will bring the Anti-Defamation League's anti-bias training to Amherst Regional High School in fall 2007. In addition, the Amherst CS² site was awarded a \$2,000 Amherst Educational Foundation Community Grant to bring a group of eight high-school students of color to the annual MSAN *National Student Leadership Conference* in Arlington, Virginia in October 2007.

Canes Closet

CS² Entrepreneurs solicited donations from the staff at all Amherst regional schools and opened Canes Closet, a room where students on free and reduced lunch stopped in and “shopped” for new or slightly used clothing. Addressing daily concerns such as adequate food, shelter, and clothing is paramount to creating a healthy learning environment where all young people can academically succeed.

RESULTS DATA 2006-07

- Member of CS² network since 1996
- 1 school involved in CS²: Amherst Regional High School
- 2 Entrepreneurs
- 4,500+ students participated in CS² programming
- \$9,235 public and private funds secured
- \$6,950 in-kind donations secured

Barnstable Public Schools

Barnstable, Massachusetts



Entrepreneurs: Bobbi Moritz and Terrie Rigollet (not pictured)

The Barnstable CS² team collaborates with administrators and teachers to serve students and address the schools' goals with the current emphasis on dropout prevention and workforce development. The team provides a creative source of objective energy and secures invaluable resources that support student learning. Over the past ten years, the CS² team has generated over \$5.5 M in grant funds and leveraged resources that supported educational and enriching programs for over 7,500 students.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

The Barnstable CS² team consists of two dynamic Entrepreneurs who, using a data-driven approach to teaching and learning, worked closely with school administrators to implement a variety of improvements throughout the district. The team continues to prove its long-standing reputation for making significant contributions within the schools and community. Highlights from this year include:

JTEC Program for In-school Youth

For the seventh year, CS² managed and secured funding for a program for high-school students highly at risk of not graduating. Conducted with the Job Training and Employment Center (JTEC), CS² Entrepreneurs guided vulnerable youth to achieve diplomas, explore meaningful careers, and succeed in employment. Thirty-two students enrolled in the program, six of who attended the Cape Cod Community College Diploma Plus Program. All students, with the exception of three, either graduated successfully or moved up a grade.

The Chart Room: Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

Barnstable was among school districts recognized by key legislators at the state-house for CS²'s work with traumatized students and progress made in creating trauma-sensitive schools. At Barnstable Middle School, 30 students participated in the Chart Room, a safe and encouraging environment where they learned life skills, achieved personal goals, developed trusting relationships with adults and peers, and managed their anger and other emotions. A CS² Entrepreneur served as liaison and designed an outcome-measurement instrument for the program.

The Chart Room After-school Program

Forty Barnstable Middle School students met on Thursday afternoons throughout the school year to engage in project-based enrichment activities that fulfilled real needs in the community. This service learning opportunity applied their social skills and knowledge of mathematics to cooking and sewing at the Barnstable Senior Center, where they interacted with an older generation.

Education and Outreach to Brazilian Families

CS² provided outreach to 20 Portuguese-speaking families through education and information in their native language. Parenting skills, using *Active Parenting of Teens* (Popkin) as a guidebook, offered families effective tools to improve parent/teen relationships and helped parents become involved in their students' lives at Barnstable Middle School.

Academic Support: Step-Up Program

A CS² Entrepreneur and her two-person staff directed Step-Up. The program provides academic support for students who have the potential to move from lower academic level classes to higher-level classes but need to attain the skills and develop the confidence to do so. Teachers, guidance counselors, and the Step-Up team identified student candidates who were tested to determine the appropriate course of study. This year, Step-Up moved 27 freshmen and sophomores to higher-level classes in mathematics and English Language Arts. Seventy-seven percent of the students passed the higher-level classes and only two students failed to advance. Among 9th graders, fifty per cent improved their academic performance compared to their 8th grade academic performance.

Academic Support: Preparing High School Students for MCAS Success

The high school CS² Entrepreneur and a team of high school teachers and support staff supported 150 students through MCAS preparation and remediation. Instruction included subject-specific test preparation, anxiety management, and testing strategies. A concerted effort to enroll more students in the program led to a fifteen percent increase in student participation.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

21ST Century Community Learning Center

Two Entrepreneurs managed the 21ST Century Extended Day After School Program at Hyannis East Elementary School. The program, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education, received recognition from the Barnstable County Council for Children, Youth, and Families as an exemplary model addressing the tenets of the America's Promise Alliance. Over the past four years, more than 160 students have been served. Forty students participate in the program for 32 weeks each year. Over 20 community partners provided in-kind time and resources for student activities and summer camp experiences. Pre- and post-program evaluations, developed for the Massachusetts Department of Education by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, indicate the program's success. Data shows that the program exceeds its goals for student improvement in mathematics, homework, problem-solving, initiative, and peer relationships. The program includes enrichment and community service learning activities to support math objectives.

Mathematics Books and Games

Middle school students incorporated service learning into the mathematics enrichment classes to improve math scores and address a real community need. The challenge: how to improve Adequate Yearly Progress requirements in mathematics within a subgroup population at the school. CS² worked with them to create a user-friendly math facts book translated into Portuguese to be used in the classroom and by parents at home during 2007-08. They also developed math games currently being used with SPED and elementary students. Students field-tested the books and games at Hyannis East Elementary School and at Horace Mann Charter School. Seventy-five students at the middle school will benefit from their efforts.

Challenge Day Garden

Fifty Barnstable Middle School students used their math skills to design and plant a garden that beautified the school and visually celebrated their cultural diversity. The program helped to increase respect and added to the school's efforts to eliminate bullying within the community.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Grants

During 2006-07, CS² Entrepreneurs secured over \$400,000 in federal and state funds and managed more than \$1 million in multi-year grants for new and continuing programs that supported district goals:

- 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Safe and Supportive Learning Environment
- Community Service Learning
- Job Training & Employment Center Program for In-school Youth
- MCAS Support
- Cobb Astro Park
- Perkins Grant
- School-to-Careers Partnership

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

School Redesign Model: Expanded Learning Time

A collaborative effort is taking place among staff and stakeholders in the school district as well as within the community. The CS² team is leading the development of research-based plans to expand learning and increase the school day. The goal is to foster successful outcomes for teaching and learning while addressing the needs of the whole child. Barnstable's two Entrepreneurs were the change agents who organized, trained, facilitated workshops and meetings, and mobilized leadership teams in three Barnstable schools.

Barnstable Leadership Team

CS² Entrepreneurs are also members of the Barnstable Leadership Team, teaming up with principals and administrators in the school district at monthly meetings to improve communication throughout the district and within the town. Their presence and voice at the table broadens understanding about new strategies, funding opportunities, and important state and federal initiatives.

RESULTS DATA 2006-07

- Member of CS² network since 1996
- CS² has district-wide K-12 impact. Focus areas for 2006-07 were at Hyannis East Elementary School, Barnstable Middle School, and Barnstable High School
- 2 Entrepreneurs
- 1,200+ students participated in CS² initiatives
- \$316,775 public and private funds secured
- \$350,000/donations + in-kind contributions secured

Brockton Public Schools

Brockton, Massachusetts



Entrepreneurs: Laurie Silva and Shailah Stewart

Thanks to the training and information Commonwealth Corporation has given Brockton's CS² team, we were able to win a ½ million dollar award from the U.S. Department of Labor for alternative education and drop out prevention, one of seven cities across the country. With the funding in hand, we are creating a comprehensive sustainable long-term plan for educational options for Brockton youth so that all attain educational credentials and develop post-secondary plans.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

The Brockton CS² partnership is a comprehensive community-school initiative that provides a wide range of programs to the elementary, middle, and high schools in the area. CS² team members have helped the school district take advantage of innovative opportunities to enrich student achievement and link learning to community and work-based experiences. Some key programs this year:

Dropout Prevention

This was an important area of focus for CS² Entrepreneurs who either led or supported several projects at Brockton High School designed to help students placed at risk of academic failure, including a 9th-grade Advisory Program, the Freshman Academy, the School Year Work and Learn Program, and a new Credit Recovery Program described below. One Entrepreneur also presented the Superintendent with a concept for an action plan for early identification and intervention for students in the middle and high schools.

MCAS Support and Peer Leadership

CS² Entrepreneurs collaborated with Brockton High School staff to implement a full school-year program that allowed over 100 students to receive MCAS and academic skills support. The program was available Mondays through Thursdays for two hours immediately after close of the regular school day. It offered a combination of project-based learning experiences and direct MCAS tutoring. In addition, weekly Peer Leadership meetings designed to increase youth character development were provided for interested students.

Credit Recovery

This pilot program, designed to help advance Brockton High School freshmen who failed the first two terms of English and/or mathematics, was considered a major success by all stakeholders and will be continued in 2007-08. An important safety net, Credit Recovery used a unique curriculum taught by 10 student tutors, five math, and five English teachers, and helped to decrease dropout rates. 60 students were enrolled in Credit Recovery English and 75 students in Credit Recovery Math. Completion, passing, and credit recovery rates were impressive.

Meaningful Activities in Learning and Life Skills (MALL) Program

A total of 400 students from the three junior-high and two middle schools participated in MALL, an after-school program that supported academic skills development through project-based learning. Students became part of "stores" or "businesses," where they developed and used math and English skills to succeed – also vital for MCAS and core academic achievement.

The Diploma Program

This was an opportunity for youth to obtain high-school diplomas in an alternative setting for older disconnected students. Guidance staff members were on site at Brockton High School to offer assistance and faculty met regularly to discuss curricula and strategies. MCAS courses were provided to students who needed extra support and preparation.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Principal for a Day

CS² continued to manage through its non-profit Brockton Educational Foundation (BEF) this high-profile, system-wide business partnership program. Now in its fourth year, Principal for a Day lets business leaders in the region shadow principals at all the district's schools for one day, so they may experience first-hand the rewards and challenges of leadership within the public schools. The program has evolved into the primary mechanism for recruiting businesses as new partners to the school district.

TERI Access College Program

In two of the junior high schools, CS² created an initiative with TERI Access College in which students enrolled in an after-school program on college and career planning. Students went on field trips to colleges, attended workshops on resume writing, and prepared for job interviews and other situations pertinent to future career aspirations.

Mayor's After-school Task Force

A CS² Entrepreneur facilitated meetings of this multi-stakeholder group that assessed community needs for youth services during after-school hours and served as an information clearinghouse.

Brockton's Promise Safe Places

Associated with the Mayor's Task Force is the Brockton's Promise Safe Places team, also led by an Entrepreneur. Its mission is to support quality programming for all Brockton youth in structured environments outside of school hours to ensure their physical and emotional safety.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

New funding secured in 2006-07 included:

Multiple Education Pathways Blueprint Grant

The Brockton CS² site, led by the district Entrepreneur, secured a major federal grant for the community. They were one of seven cities nationwide that received a \$492,000 two-year federal Department of Labor award, which will enable them to plan alternative education pathways for dropouts and students vulnerable to academic failure.

Summer Transitions Grant

A CS² Entrepreneur secured and managed a new Department of Education grant to offer a summer component of the Freshman Academy for disengaged 9th-grade participants.

Additional Grants

An Entrepreneur performed grants management – the fiduciary, program supervision, and data requirements functions – for multiple funding sources:

- 21st Century Community Learning Center
- After School and Out of School Time (ASOST) Grant
- Academic Support Partnership Grant

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

BPS Innovators

CS² continued to manage this Brockton Educational Foundation program that awards internal grants to teachers in the district. The BEF issued a request for proposals and offered individual teachers \$500 – or small teams of teachers up to \$1,000 – to design and implement creative new curricula for their students. Ten excellent proposals were funded this year.

RESULTS DATA 2006-07

- Member of CS² network since 1994
- 6 schools involved in CS²: Brockton High School; North, East, and West Junior High Schools; South Middle School, and Gilmore Academy
- 2 Entrepreneurs
- 700+ students participated in CS² programming
- \$ 1,814,724 public and private funds secured
- \$ 83,000 donations secured

Fitchburg Public Schools

Fitchburg, Massachusetts



Entrepreneurs: Katie Gray and Thomas Hughes

The Fitchburg CS² team collaborates with community stakeholders, parents, administrators, and teachers to serve students and address the school's emphasis on dropout prevention, dropout intervention, and workforce development. Through continued collaboration with the community and business stakeholders, we increased our internship placements by 75%, exposing more youth to valuable work experiences.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

The Fitchburg CS² initiative began in April 2006 as a result of a district-level planning team. A central focus is to promote dropout prevention and retention strategies at the high school. One Entrepreneur developed ways to fill program gaps and coordinated programs and services for disengaged youth. Here are highlights of achievements this year:

Outreach to Parents

The High School's CS² Entrepreneur and Resource Officer made more than 70 home visits related to truancy. As a result, over 60 percent of the high school students in question improved their attendance at school. Another 10 percent were assigned to Job Corps.

Credit Recovery School

The High School Entrepreneur planned and implemented a Saturday Tutorial Credit Recovery program, designed to help failing Fitchburg High School students recover academic credits and move forward to the next grade level. 132 students were served, and six teachers and administrators participated.

Work-based Learning

CS² staff utilized and completed work-based learning plans (a workforce development skills assessment tool designed by the Department of Education), for seniors at the high school. Sixty-four students were successfully employed in internships.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

This year CS² partnered with several local organizations to help students in the Fitchburg school system develop employability skills and strong character skills.

- North Central Chamber of Commerce
- Private employers
- The Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce
- Community-based groups

In addition, CS² collaborated with a number of area colleges and groups to foster the academic, career, and college planning needs of Fitchburg High School students:

College Fair

The CS² office worked with the Guidance department and College Access department of Mount Wachusett Community College to recruit high school students to attend the annual College Fair held at the community college. One hundred students attended.

Healthcare Community Service

One Entrepreneur partnered with the Montachusett Opportunity Council to implement a Community Service Learning grant program. Several students interested in healthcare were recruited and trained; they were then able to provide community service to local elderly at retirement homes.

Student Mentors Training

One Entrepreneur coordinated tutoring and mentoring skills training through Fitchburg State College to Fitchburg High School student mentors.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Funding secured in 2006-07 included:

Grants

- Department of Education Community Service Learning grant

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

During 2006-07, the Fitchburg school district hired a second CS² Entrepreneur to provide team coaching and professional development, as well as research and design support for the Principal and Commonwealth Pilot School Design Team, at Academy Middle School. This Entrepreneur focused on best practices and structures needed to promote a positive school culture and developed a comprehensive, prevention-focused student support model for at-risk students, which will be used in the 2007-08 school year.

Spearheaded by CS², focus groups with teachers, individual interviews with support staff, and a staff survey identified the Academy's key areas of concern. Discipline and attendance data for the 2006-07 school year were analyzed. Data revealed that achievement, motivation, and responsibility were among the top priorities for student development. Data analysis performed by the second CS² Entrepreneur provided helpful information for classroom management to teachers and staff.

The same Entrepreneur worked on a "scope and sequence" for the Advisory curriculum, as well as a structure for the Pilot School Student Support Office. She participated in outside agency service provider meetings and developed a proposal – which was accepted by the superintendent – for a staff-wide, team-building event at the Academy.

Results Data (2006-07)

- Member of CS² network since 2006
- 2 schools involved in CS²: Fitchburg High School and Academy Middle School
- 2 Entrepreneurs
- 662 students participated in CS² programming
- \$ 20,000 public and private funds secured
- \$ 167,650 in-kind donations secured

City of New Bedford

New Bedford, Massachusetts



Entrepreneurs: Lynne LaBerge, Jane Jacobsen, and Ivone Spencer (not pictured)

The New Bedford Team serves as community and school partnership coordinators who take an entrepreneurial approach to education. Through a deeper understanding of our communities' needs, we strive to create multiple pathways to student success.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

During the past seven years of fostering partnerships with key stakeholders in New Bedford, the CS² team has established itself as a powerful and creative force behind school-based initiatives and stronger linkages to the community. They have played a pivotal role in a variety of school/community agency collaborations, partnerships with local arts and cultural institutions, and joint career-development programs with the local Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council/One-stop Career Center, and municipal government. Three schools in the district benefited from key programs in 2006-07:

Dropout Prevention

Working closely with the New Bedford Public School's Office of Dropout Prevention and the Superintendent's Alternative Education Task Force, CS² identified critical projects needed to improve outreach and services to high school youth in danger of dropping out of school and those who have already dropped out: a strategic plan for alternative education programs with funding options and a comprehensive resource guide and website for vulnerable youth and their parents. CS² applied for and received a \$5,000 grant to fund the initiatives and an Entrepreneur continues to serve as a member of the Superintendent's Alternative Education Task Force comprised of school administrators and community members.

Academic Achievement for a Brighter Future

CS² collaborated with the local Workforce Investment Board's Youth Council on quality work and learning programs, as well as secured funding for a summer program on work readiness for 80 low-income youth.

Student Recognition

An Entrepreneur coordinated a new program through the Navigator's Club, which recognized 243 Normandin Middle School students for academic excellence and positive behaviors.

Career Awareness

This year, CS² partnered with GEAR UP to produce a Career Fair where 23 professionals from the community spoke to 364 middle school students with an in-depth question-and-answer format about possible career paths.

Volunteer and Tutoring Programs

A CS² Entrepreneur actively recruited 15 parent/church volunteers who assisted elementary school teachers with classroom duties and engaged nearly 120 elementary students in academic remediation and MCAS tutoring. In addition, in partnership with the UMass Dartmouth America Reads Tutor Program, 40 college tutors were trained and placed into 25 classrooms to tutor 350 students.

Oral Health Program

A CS² Entrepreneur implemented an invaluable free dental service program for Hayden-McFadden Elementary students. Over 115 students received dental exams and diagnoses, cleanings, fluoride treatments, dental sealants, and fillings. The Entrepreneur also coordinated intake of medical forms, parental contacts, and scheduling of visits.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

The City of New Bedford's new administration brought an enhanced spirit of mutual respect and responsibility throughout the community. In tandem, positive activities for youth, decreasing the dropout rate, and instilling optimistic attitudes about the city and its future for youth were top priorities for CS² this year. The CS² team in New Bedford sharpened its focus on quality summer work for youth and community-service learning opportunities, as well as youth leadership training to empower students to become proactively involved in their school and community.

Pathways to MCAS Success

This program served 30 New Bedford High School seniors who met their graduation requirements but needed to pass MCAS to receive their diploma. CS² organized a field trip to the One-stop Career Center where students learned about services available to them beyond high school and were introduced to coordinators from various programs that offer extended remediation and other no-cost education alternatives, such as career and vocational training. Partners included New Directions, Bristol Community College, and Job Corps.

Community Collaboration - NSCC

At the recommendation of the Department of Education, a CS² Entrepreneur convened the Normandin School Community Connections committee: three outside agencies who came together to share information, resources, student enrollment data, and effectiveness of their programs. Data collected was presented to the middle school principal and the group used this information to coordinate dynamic school activities including Diversity Night, Career Fair, and MCAS practice/motivation programs.

Professional Development

The entire New Bedford CS² team organized several workshops for high school and middle school teachers, administrators, and staff throughout the school year. A workshop for secondary school guidance staff at the One-stop Career Center focused on services for vulnerable youth with speakers from local organizations New Directions, P-21, Pathways, and others.

Two workshops were offered to high school business teachers, one at the One-stop Career Center and another at the New Bedford Economic Development Council (EDC). The former updated teachers on job-market trends and services available at One-Stop. The latter provided business coaches for entrepreneurship teachers interested in improving the curriculum to help students develop realistic and viable business plans.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Local workshops were made possible by in-kind community contributions. In addition, the New Bedford team secured and managed funding from a variety of sources this year, among them:

- A Massachusetts DOE/Learn and Serve America grant of \$50,000 to provide schools with mini-grants for classroom projects, K-12 professional development, and to develop a district-wide strategic plan
- Funding to send a team made up of an Entrepreneur, a high school teacher, and a school committee member to the *National Community Service Learning Conference* in New Mexico
- Partial funding to send three Entrepreneurs and a dropout prevention specialist to the *Effective Strategies Conference* in Florida, sponsored by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

Once again this year the CS² team worked to advance community-service learning (CSL) in the district. They added youth leadership to the curriculum where 143 freshmen received training on how to effectively create change within their school and community. In a busy year, they also:

- Reconvened and facilitated monthly CSL Advisory Council meetings
- Hosted the 2nd Annual CSL Celebration
- Organized a district team to attend the *National Service-Learning Conference*

Note: One important change is that as of July 1, 2007, the elementary school Entrepreneur was relocated to NBHS. With two Entrepreneurs at the high school, CS² can provide more support services to the dropout prevention office and work on dropout prevention strategies district-wide.

Results Data (2006-07)

- Member of CS² network since 2000
- 3 schools involved in CS²: New Bedford High School, Normandin Middle School, and Hayden-McFadden Elementary School
- 3 Entrepreneurs
- 3,540 students participated in CS² programming
- \$185,258 public and private funds secured
- \$63,926 in-kind donations secured

Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School Northampton, Massachusetts

Entrepreneurs: Marta Monteleon
and Dena Roy (not pictured)

In 2006, CS² funded a mini-grant allowing faculty and staff to create a school-wide Wellness Plan focusing on topics including student nutrition, student support programs, and faculty and staff wellness. CS² Entrepreneurs were successful in not only leading the school wide planning process but also securing a competitive Department of Public Health “Wellness in Communities, Schools and Workplace Settings” grant this year. The grant will provide new fitness, nutrition, and health opportunities for students, faculty and staff for the next three school years. As a result of these efforts, wellness will be one of three strategic priorities in the upcoming five-year plan for the school.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) has two dedicated CS² Entrepreneurs who worked separately and collaboratively this year to promote the goals of the CS² initiative and the school’s mission of continuous improvement. The Administrative Capacity Building Entrepreneur focused on public awareness for the school by working with area businesses, organizations, and media, and was also active in recruitment, admissions, community outreach, and special projects. The Instructional Capacity Building Entrepreneur focused on program development and evaluation, data analysis, and grant writing; and was also involved with teacher training and strategic planning.

Over the course of nine years, CS² has played an important role in promoting programs that have a positive impact on school climate, professional development, and high student achievement. Highlights from 2006-07 include:

MCAS Remediation

CS² introduced distance learning for six students who either failed or were at risk of 10th grade MCAS failure. This was a pilot program in summer 2006 to determine the effectiveness of providing individualized student services via the Internet. In the fall, the Entrepreneurs coordinated an after-school study program for 45 students, providing targeted assistance to 11th and 12th graders preparing for re-test of either the math or English portions of the 10th grade MCAS. All students improved their scores, and six out of ten passed one or both tests. During winter and spring, a CS² Entrepreneur coordinated programs that provided remediation to thirty-five 9th and 10th graders to prepare them for the 10th grade MCAS.

Summer Programs

Five programs were developed for summer 2007:

- Vocationally based Middle School Enrichment for students in grades 5-7
- 9th grade Jump Start for students identified as at risk of 10th grade MCAS failure
- 10th grade Student Success for students identified as at risk for MCAS failure
- Blended distance-learning Credit Recovery for students employed during the summer and otherwise unable to take a summer school class in order to maintain grade placement and/or graduate with their class
- Second Chance, a pilot program providing MCAS tutoring and credit recovery for students who left school without attaining their diploma

Green Campus Initiative

CS² Entrepreneurs secured funding, coordinated graduate-level curriculum integration courses for teachers, and facilitated the development of the Sustainable and Renewable Resources Program at the high school, as well as participated in the Massachusetts DOE Clean Energy Taskforce.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Cooperative Employment

Eligible 12th graders were placed into jobs where they continued to learn their vocational program under the supervision of an employer. The program gave students a practical way to apply employability training through real work experience in the work setting, learning workplace communication skills and etiquette, and having work-related responsibilities such as paperwork, time management, and customer relations.

Public/Community Relations

A CS² Entrepreneur placed newspaper and radio advertisements throughout the year to promote programs and events and to build more community connections that would inform potential students, parents, and the surrounding region about activities at the high school.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Grants

Selected grants this year included:

- MA DOE – Academic Support Services
- Perkins – Curriculum Renewal
- Perkins – Vocational Technical Education Program Alignment Project
- MTC – Sustainable and Renewable Resources Project

The Entrepreneurs increased revenues through competitive grants totaling \$89,550 and non-competitive grants totaling \$90,643 to provide programs during the school year and in summer. In addition, approximately \$2,500 of in-kind materials and services was secured for student use and teacher professional development.

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

Both Entrepreneurs were participants in the district-wide administrative team and Massachusetts DOE High Schools That Work planning teams. Their work this year included:

Small Group Training – Using MCAS Data

In conjunction with school-wide professional development and curriculum sharing, CS² provided training to 17 teachers and administrators in the interpretation and use of individual and group MCAS data using TestWiz. CS² anticipates that all teachers will be using the data analysis for curriculum development by the end of next year.

Vocational Program Evaluation

CS² developed a vocational program evaluation instrument focusing on standards, services, and student outcome data. Included in the evaluation are items related to high-risk students, dropout rates, and program completion rates. In addition, CS² coordinated a Math Institute where a plan to address low student achievement levels was developed.

Wellness Plan

A comprehensive plan was developed for the high school this year that will provide services to vulnerable youth. Its goal is for students to experience healthy development and academic success.

Site Chair and Liaison to High Schools That Work

A CS² Entrepreneur chaired the overall SVAHS site committee and served as SVAHS liaison to the High Schools That Work organization, helping the high school to continue to meet its commitment to the key practices for improvement.

Results Data (2006-07)

- Member of CS² network since 1997
- 1 school involved in CS²: Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
- 2 Entrepreneurs
- 732 students participated in CS² programming
- \$114,401 public and private funds secured
- \$2,385+ in-kind donations secured

Springfield Public Schools

Springfield, Massachusetts



Entrepreneurs: Robert Clarke, Kristin Puleo, and Mary Kay Brown

Through our collaboration with the Regional Employment Board, additional funds were made available to redesign the Springfield School-to-Career office's outreach strategy to employers and students. As a result, we increased our internship placements by 67 percent connecting more young people to a real world work experience.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

The City of Springfield is an urban district faced with the enormous challenge of preparing students to meet high academic standards as well as the changing demands of adulthood. Seventy-two percent of Springfield Public School students – mainly youth of color – live in households that are below the poverty line. From its inception in 1993, Springfield CS² has acted as a critical catalyst in bringing together schools, businesses, and community partners and convening regional multiple pathways to academic proficiency, social support, and career readiness for all students. Key programs in 2006-07 included:

Summer of Work and Learning

This school-to-career program served 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who did not pass one or both parts of the MCAS. Direct recruitment this year to parents of eligible students supported the district goal of increasing parental involvement. CS² provided the Research and Accounting department at UMass Amherst with the first two marking period results for students in the Real Game intervention group versus the control group – 9th graders in the Springfield Public Schools who did not receive a career education component in the curriculum. Their analysis of the data on grades, attendance, and office referrals for the year is aiding CS²'s understanding of the effect of Career Development education on students' academic performance.

Middle School Portfolio Process

With continuing support from the Superintendent, CS² focused on a process that ensures that each middle school in the district provides students with critical Career Development education needed to make informed choices in selecting a high school. The program highlighted what each high school offers and positioned high school selection as the first and most important career choice. The process impacted 2,300 students.

Internships

CS² increased student internships by 67 percent this year (530 students), meeting the Connecting Activities grant requirement for student placements.

Freshman Transition Program

A CS² Entrepreneur continued to manage the Freshman Transition Program at The High School of Science and Technology. It is designed to meet the social and emotional needs of 9th graders; the program impacted 625 students this year.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Job Shadowing

One Entrepreneur organized an outing which took 350 8th and 9th graders from 12 Springfield schools to learn first-hand for a day what is involved in positions at various workplaces. Participating employers included: The Springfield Sheraton, the Republican newspaper, American Saw, Mercy Hospital, and the Hampden County Regional Employment Board.

Trips to Colleges and Worksites

CS² partnered with the Guidance Department this year to send eight buses of students to the College Fair at the Big E, and offered trips to learn about colleges to all the middle schools.

Workplace Readiness Certificate Program

This year, CS² Entrepreneurs made available to community organizations a curriculum that helps young people develop workplace skills. They trained staff at Dunbar Community Center and the Health and Human Services Department so they may offer the certificate program to students who work in city offices. An application module was added to the curriculum, all of which was made available online.

Regional Dropout Prevention Action Plan

CS² collaborated with the Regional Employment Board and the cities of Chicopee and Holyoke to share best practices in dropout prevention strategies. Springfield Public Schools is interested in developing an action plan for the region and CommCorp is assisting with this goal.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Grants

Funding was secured and managed from these sources:

- U.S. Department of Education – Smaller Learning Communities
- Massachusetts Department of Education – Connecting Activities
- Massachusetts Department of Education – Academic Support
- Donations from businesses – The Summer of Work & Learning

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

STEP UP Springfield

CS² served as key school-district staff working with STEP UP Springfield, a major effort by the Springfield Schools, in partnership with community organizations in a city-wide collaboration to ensure that all students achieve academic proficiency.

Career Center Support Services

CS² Entrepreneurs serve on the Advisory Board of the Putnam High School Career Center. The center provides a multitude of services for students at the school, from career exploration to income tax help. CommCorp contributed expertise.

Career Development Course

CS²'s Career Development course continues to be offered and expanded in most of the district's high schools. This course offering is highly valued by the principals, who greatly appreciate the role that CS² Entrepreneurs play in teaching this critical class.

Results Data (2006-07)

- Member of CS² network since 1993
- 28 schools involved in CS²: Four high schools, three alternative high schools, six middle schools, and on a limited basis, 15 elementary schools
- 3 Entrepreneurs
- 5,321 students participated in CS² programming
- \$275,094 public and private funds secured
- \$171,150 in-kind donations secured



Entrepreneur: Betty Castiglioni

As an entrepreneur, one of my most professionally fulfilling experiences was witnessing the impact of the interactions between students and professionals provided by our working relationship with the New England Laborers Training Center. Once BVT students reported their experiences to their classmates, the demand for additional visits to the training center and contact with professionals in non-traditional careers escalated where previously there was little interest on the part of the students.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (Valley Tech) joined the CS² network as a pilot site in 2006 through a grant from Commonwealth Corporation. In partnership with local colleges, businesses, and economic development agencies, Valley Tech provides a state-of-the-art learning facility to educate young people and connect them to careers and higher education. The CS² Entrepreneur works with the school so that more students leave Valley Tech, with not only a diploma in hand, but with a compelling vision and plan for their future. Accomplishments for 2006-07 included:

Employability Prep Program

CS² designed, implemented, and taught a program to increase employability for ten seniors with significant learning and social needs.

Student Multicultural Leadership Council

The Entrepreneur developed and facilitated a multicultural council of students who led after-school programs for students of all ethnic backgrounds with the goal of increasing vocational and academic success. Students also worked to increase cultural awareness in the school through creative practices developed by the leadership team.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Apprenticeships

CS² established a working relationship with the New England Laborers Training Center, a nonprofit training facility that provided hands-on experiences for Valley Tech students in the general construction and labor industry. Through the center, seniors had the opportunity to become apprentices and continue training in their chosen field upon graduation.

South East Equity Leaders (SEEL) Program

The Entrepreneur represented Valley Tech within a group of vocational teachers and support staff who worked together to deliver programming for students in nontraditional vocations.

Community Resource Brochure

The Entrepreneur developed a brochure that gives students and their families easy access to community resources and services. In a large geographic area (13 towns), it consolidates vital information. In addition, a business card with key addresses and phone numbers was issued to students. These tools help students communicate readily with local agencies to meet their needs.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Grants

The Entrepreneur assisted in grant writing for a Perkins grant by developing an action plan for Core Indicator IV-A: Nontraditional Enrollment.

LEADING SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

During this second year of activity, CS² worked on several systemic initiatives that identified gaps in services for students placed at risk, and then developed and implemented a strategic plan to address those needs. The Entrepreneur, in collaboration with school administration and staff, is charged with developing programs and services that are based on a district-wide collection and review of student data. Focus areas this year included:

Transitional Planning

The Entrepreneur was active in a monthly study group of school staff members, which identified student needs and available resources to assist with transitional planning activities.

Research and Analysis

CS² conducted research and analyzed data about nontraditional student dropouts, then provided recommendations for program development to the district.

Results Data (2006-07)

- Member of CS² network since 2006
- 1 school involved in CS²: Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School
- 1 Entrepreneur
- 45 students participated in CS² programming

Pittsfield/Berkshire Community Action Council YouthBuild Program | Pittsfield, Massachusetts

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, INSPIRING CAREERS

The Pittsfield CS² site was initially established in 2003 in response to issues about disengaged youth, raised during a Youth Roundtable Summit sponsored by the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, the Pittsfield Public Schools, and other community partners. In May 2004, Commonwealth Corporation and collaborating partners agreed to fund and establish an off-site, alternative learning program for youth who were placed at risk of dropping out, or had already dropped out of high school. The program enabled seniors to complete their academic requirements, as well as to participate in work-based learning experiences with links to careers and higher learning opportunities. In 2006, Berkshire Community Action Council became part of the Pittsfield CS² network as the lead agency for the implementation of the YouthBuild Program for disengaged students. In October 2006, a CS² Entrepreneur was added to the site, serving as the Director for YouthBuild during 2006-2007. Accomplishments during this year include:

YouthBuild Program

- Implemented a community-wide summit that identified programs and funding to support alternative learning options at the high-school level
- Developed an academic curriculum that empowers youth to complete their high school graduation requirements
- Implemented the YouthBuild Program and recruited ten students (and placed five) into a pilot YouthBuild Program for a full calendar year
- Tracked progress of students in the pilot program using the Adult Learning Center's SMART system
- Coordinated multiple funding sources for YouthBuild

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Grants for the YouthBuild Program

- Federal Department of Labor YouthBuild Grant
- Rotary Club of Pittsfield donation
- United Way Venture Grant

Entrepreneur: Dennis Turner (not pictured)

Results Data (2006-07)

- Member of CS² network since 2003
- 1 school involved in CS²: Taconic High School
- 1 Entrepreneur involved with YouthBuild site, since 2006
- 5 students participated in CS² programming

CS2 SUPPORTERS:

We are deeply grateful to the following key workforce, education, community, and statewide partners – the individuals, companies, organizations, foundations, and donors whose generous support of our work this year helped to make possible significant advances for the youth we serve.

- Academic Support Partnering Grant
- Adult Learning Center
- America Reads
- American International College
- American Library Association
- American Saw
- Amherst Chamber of Commerce
- Amherst College
- Amherst Educational Foundation
- Amherst Parent Center
- Anti-Defamation League
- ArtWorks!
- BankNorth
- Barnstable County Council for Children, Youth, and Families
- Barnstable County Extension, 4H, UMass Amherst Youth Development Program
- Barnstable Leadership Team
- Barnstable Police Department
- Barnstable Senior Center
- Baystate Medical Center
- Berkshire Community Action Council
- Berkshire Community College
- Berkshire County Regional Employment Board
- Berkshire Works
- Best Buy
- Big Y Supermarkets
- Boston College, Data Analysis and Strategic Planning Project
- Bridgewater State College
- Bristol Community College
- Bristol County Sheriff's Office
- Brockton Area ARC
- Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board
- Brockton Boys and Girls Club
- Brockton's Promise
- Cape Cod Community College
- Cape Cod YMCA
- Career Point
- City of Brockton Office of the Mayor
- City of Fitchburg Office of the Mayor
- City of New Bedford
- City of Pittsfield
- Clear Channel Radio
- Community Music School
- Cotuit Center for the Arts
- Crescent Credit Union

- Daily Hampshire Gazette
- Erin Gruwell
- Federal Department of Labor Grant
- First Student Bus Company
- Fitchburg Police Department
- Fitchburg State College
- Franklin/Hampshire Regional Employment Board
- Fuller Craft Museum
- Future Works
- GEAR-UP
- Get on BASE
- Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce
- Greater New Bedford One-stop Career Center
- Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
- Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce
- Greenfield Community College
- Grinspoon Charitable Foundation
- Hampshire Educational Collaborative
- Hillcrest
- Holyoke Community College
- Hyannis Area Chamber of Commerce
- Hyannis Downtown Business Improvement District
- Job Training and Employment Center (JTEC) Program for Barnstable Public School
- Junior Achievement of Western MA
- Juvenile Resource Center
- Kindred Parkview Rehabilitation Hospital
- Lions Club
- Look Park and Northampton Park and Recreation Departments
- MassMutual
- Mass Web Printing
- Massachusetts Department of Education
- Massachusetts Small Business Development Center
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
- Massasoit Community College
- Mercy Hospital
- Metro South Chamber of Commerce
- Milford Area Chamber of Commerce
- Montachusett Opportunity Council
- Mount Wachusett Community College
- Museum of Science, Boston
- New Bedford Prevention Partnership
- New Bedford Public Schools
- New Directions
- New England Labors Training Center
- North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce
- North Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board
- Old Colony YMCA
- Perkins Grant
- Pioneer Training Center
- Pittsfield Public School District
- Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
- Putnam High School Career Center
- Regional Employment Board
- The Republican Newspaper
- Rodenhiser Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
- Rotary Club of Pittsfield
- Ryan Family Amusements
- School to Career Regional Partnership
- Seven Hills Foundation
- Sheehan Family Foundation
- Skills USA
- SMILES - Southcoast Mentoring Initiative
- Smith College
- South East Equity Leaders (SEEL)
- Sovereign Bank
- Springboard Technologies
- Springfield City Hall
- Springfield College
- The Springfield Sheraton
- Springfield Technical Community College/Technology Park
- STEP UP Springfield
- TERI (The Educational Resource Institute) Access College
- Tony Kent Ice Arena
- Town of Barnstable
- Trial Courts of Western Massachusetts
- Turley Publications
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- United States Department of Labor
- United Way
- United Way of Greater New Bedford
- United Way of Greater Plymouth County
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
- Webster Bank
- Western New England College
- WGBY Public Broadcasting
- WHMP Radio, Northampton
- WIA Youth Funds



A quasi-public agency based in Boston, Massachusetts, Commonwealth Corporation's mission is to advance the skill development and labor force participation of youth and adults by creating educational and employment pathways to high demand jobs. Commonwealth Corporation receives financial support from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Within CommCorp, the youth division designs, implements, and manages a range of programs assisting schools and communities with dropout prevention and recovery, alternative small high schools, adolescent literacy and numeracy, youth development, and career development. While working on behalf of all youth, we are especially interested in serving those who are placed at risk of not completing high school, entering post-secondary education or training, or acquiring the skills necessary for success in the twenty-first century.

BOSTON OFFICE

**529 Main Street, Suite 110
Boston, MA 02129
617-727-8158**

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE

**355 Bridge Street, Suite 4B
Northampton, MA 01060
413-582-9054**

For more information about CommCorp's Communities and Schools for Success (CS²) educational network, go to www.commcorp.org/cs2, or contact:

**Talitha Abramsen
Senior Program Manager
413-582-9054, ext. 101
tabramsen@commcorp.org**