CIS News: Spring 2017

CIS of Brunswick County names new Executive Director

The CIS Board of Directors has selected Bonnie Jordan, BSW, as the new Executive Director of our nonprofit organization. Ms. Jordan succeeds Nancy Lamb who resigned from CIS in September 2016. The selection was made after an extensive search and selection process during which time Jordan served as Interim Executive Director.

Jordan’s passion for education and her community service experience prepares her well to lead CIS of Brunswick County. “We are very pleased to announce this appointment,” reported Dr. Susanne Adams, President of Brunswick County Community College and CIS of Brunswick County Board Chair. “Ms. Jordan will bring leadership and creativity to CIS programs and a deep sense of commitment to improving education for Brunswick County students.”

Jordan’s resume includes over 17 years of planning, grant writing, and program management in the nonprofit sector. She holds a bachelor’s degree in social work (BSW) and has completed master’s level courses. She joined the CIS of Brunswick County team in 2013 as the Program Operations Officer and secured many grants to sustain and grow the CIS Action for Success Dropout Prevention Program. Jordan successfully wrote a grant for over $1 million to fund the 21st Century Community Learning Center Afterschool Programs at Cedar Grove and Shallotte Middle Schools. She has served as a key member of the CIS Senior Management Team, working closely with staff, Board of Directors, school leadership, and community partners. Prior to joining CIS, Jordan served as the Program Director for Catholic Charities Emergency and Community Services in Burlington County, NJ, which provides support to those struggling with hunger and homelessness.

When asked about her new position as Executive Director Jordan stated, “I look forward to the opportunity to lead an organization that has a long and successful history of providing vital support services to students and families in Brunswick County. Our community is growing and changing and CIS is committed to working with our community partners, staff, Board, donors, and volunteers to help fulfill our mission to empower students to stay in school and achieve in life.”

Meet Amber Malave, CIS Success Coach at Waccamaw School. While this is Amber's first year at Waccamaw, she has over eight years experience with CIS. Amber has a Psychology and Early Childhood Education background, with previous experience in the CIS 21st Century afterschool program.

"Seeing students have their own moments of success is a rewarding feeling. One spark, one thought, one action can inspire a child to push beyond their challenges and succeed in life," said Amber.

As a Success Coach at Waccamaw, Amber works with students to create support plans for their success. She implements WhyTry, MindUP, Social Thinking, Check and Connect, and MobyMax curriculum, coordinates homework assistance, after-school tutoring, the Friends of Rachel Club, and is starting Peer Court at the school.

When not working, Amber spends time with her family, enjoys outdoor activities, writing poetry, and scrapbooking.
CIS student success stories

- Shyanne, a seventh grader at Cedar Grove Middle School with a reputation for troublemaking and classroom disruption throughout the school, truly benefitted from CIS help. She was known for rebellious behavior like scribbling all over test booklets and marking answers without reading. During end of grade testing, “I hate this test” was written all over her test book. This was a consistent behavior. She was disrespectful to her teachers and classmates daily, frequently using inappropriate language and even causing fights with peers.

Daily sessions with a CIS Success Coach helped Shyanne to begin listening and responding in a positive way. Through the CIS sessions, she worked on anger management, conflict resolution, healthy choices, and character building. With the Success Coach Shyanne was able to set daily goals, learn study skills, and build self-awareness.

Shyanne’s teachers are continuously sharing what a difference they are now seeing. They are so happy to witness the changes in her attitude and behavior. Katherine Watson, an administrator at Cedar Grove stated, “Shyanne has shown amazing academic and behavioral improvement in the last calendar year. She has grown into a mature, hard-working seventh grader that truly cares about improving and making the best grades possible.”

- Cedar Grove Middle School CIS student Kimberly:
CIS helps me to be more organized with no distractions, which helps to complete my assignments and my grades have gone up! I like school more now because of working with CIS and Miss Franklin at CGMS. I am involved with CIS WhyTry group program that meets every other week during our elective period. CIS helps me to stay positive and keeps me focused on school and not getting mixed up with friends’ bad drama.

- Billy, a Shallotte Middle School CIS student, was struggling with his grades in several classes. “I couldn’t understand the subject matter, so then I just wouldn’t complete assignments because I didn’t understand. Social Studies was the hardest. CIS helped me with a tutor that I see once a week. Now my social studies grade is a B and I’m doing better in my other classes. With Ms. Rau’s (CIS Success Coach at SMS) help and keeping me organized, I have a strong B average and getting better. Thank you!”

CIS receives Orton Family Foundation donation to support Action for Success

CIS received a $4,800 donation from the Orton Family Foundation of Shelburne, VT. The money supports programming for at risk students served through the CIS Action for Success dropout prevention program at five Brunswick County middle schools. The foundation's support will directly benefit the students with whom we work to improve academic proficiency, improve behaviors, and decrease truancy.

Recognized as the most effective dropout prevention program in the nation, the CIS Action for Success Program follows best practices of the national CIS Model, providing students with one-on-one relationships with caring adults to help remove barriers to learning. Meeting basic needs and providing support helps students concentrate on their academic, social, and emotional growth, helping prepare them to enter college, the military, or the workforce.

CIS currently provides an Action for Success program in five middle schools that incorporates Success Coaches, community volunteers and club and business partnerships to support student achievement. CIS assists Brunswick County students through tutors, mentors, 21st Century Community Learning Center, After School programs, Teen and Peer Court programs, and parenting education, with a primary focus on dropout prevention services.

Founded in 1995, it is CIS of Brunswick County’s mission to "surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life." The efforts of CIS making a difference in the lives of students and families are well-documented. In the 2015-2016 school year, organization efforts resulted in more than 3,500 students receiving services including academic tutoring, social enrichment, and intervention services that reach far beyond the classroom.
Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Action for Success: WhyTry middle school program

The WhyTry Program is a resilience education curriculum that provides simple, hands-on solutions for dropout prevention, violence prevention, truancy reduction, and increased academic success. WhyTry is an evidenced based program for groups of students to meet and bond and better themselves. The group subject material deals with self-esteem, behavior, peer pressure, and etiquette for students. WhyTry is an eight week session taking place during the school year that is implemented by CIS Success Coaches stationed at each of the five Brunswick County Middle Schools.

WhyTry gives students a safe place to communicate and learn how to handle sensitive situations. The program teaches positive life skills and reinforces good behavior to help them become even better students. At risk students participate in WhyTry allowing CIS to mentor and interact with the students more, helping prevent hurtful behaviors from becoming habits. WhyTry is a proactive program teaching positive behaviors to youth to change attitudes.

The program has over 100 different learning activities, various journal activities that help students reflect on program concepts, and other multimedia used. The WhyTry curriculum engages all major learning styles (visual, auditory, and body-kinesthetic). WhyTry utilizes a flexible lesson plan allowing teaching of program concepts in a ten-minute solution-focused therapy session or in an hour-long class.

The WhyTry Program is currently at work in over 20,000 organizations in all 50 of the United States, as well as Canada, the UK, and Australia. But most importantly it is working to better middle school students in all five middle schools right here in Brunswick County.

CIS Parenting Education

CIS Parenting Education is a comprehensive program designed to meet the specific needs of parents and their children. Our parenting program relies on the Incredible Years model, which is an evidence-based program. This program is offered to anyone in a parenting role who has children 5-12 years of age. We also offer a parent peer support group called Circle of Parents program. Group leaders work together with parents and children in a supportive and confidential atmosphere to offer effective techniques to build healthy family relationships.

Who can benefit?
Families
Single Parents
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Blended Families
Foster and Adoptive Families
Children

Program Highlights:
FREE of charge
Highly qualified, experienced Parent Educators
Program offered in several locations throughout Brunswick County
(current sessions in Leland and Shallotte, next sessions begin Fall 2017)
Little Princess Ball 2017 a hit in all three locations

It was another memorable event for the Annual Little Princess Ball sponsored by CIS and Brunswick County Parks and Recreation in February. It was an afternoon filled with dancing, face painting, manicures, games, food, and fun. The Little Princess Ball is for girls in kindergarten through fifth grade accompanied by an adult male role model. Little princesses came dressed in their prettiest dresses, ball gowns, and favorite princess costumes. Little girls in high-heeled shoes, or princess slippers with tiaras and bright smiling faces filled the Carolina Shores, Leland, and Southport locations.

With the event expanding to a third location this year, the Southport and Carolina Shores locations sold out and Leland almost sold out as well. Hundreds of girls and their male role models danced, laughed and made memories. Refreshments were provided and every girl took home their very own tiara. “All of the girls were dressed in their prettiest dresses and attended the event knowing it was a day to be a princess,” said Kathy Smith, CIS Director of Elementary Programs.

The Little Princess Ball would not be possible without support from partners including Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, Brunswick Community College South Brunswick Islands Center, the Brunswick Center at Southport, and the Leland Cultural Arts Center. Special thanks to the many community businesses and vendors for making the 2017 ball a success by donating delicious snacks and sweet treats for the event.

More than 70 volunteers including CIS and Brunswick County Parks and Recreation staff, families, and friends, worked hard to make sure the event was a success. The Little Princess Ball is sponsored by CIS and Brunswick County Parks and Recreation.

Photographs and videos from this year’s Little Princess Ball may be viewed on the Communities In Schools of Brunswick County Facebook page.

For current CIS of Brunswick County happenings, visit www.cisbrunswick.org

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