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Contact: Kelly Webb
VP of External Affairs
Communities In Schools of North Carolina
e: kwebb@cisnc.org
c: 919-371-8480

Communities In Schools of North Carolina To Receive \$3.3 Million Investment to Help Students Reengage During Covid

Gift Will Accelerate Efforts to Combat Education Inequities

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA (February 3, 2022) - Communities In Schools of North Carolina (CISNC) announced it received an unprecedented gift of \$3.3 million from philanthropist and author Mackenzie Scott. This gift is one of 40 gifts being received by Communities In Schools organizations in 19 states and the CIS National Office.

“The decision to support the work of CISNC is based on the data-driven impact we have on the students, families and communities we serve. said Jill Cox, President and CEO for Communities In Schools of North Carolina. “This game-changing investment helps us leverage our public and private gifts to support student recovery from the pandemic. During Covid, we have experienced unprecedented challenges for students and families, including experiences of social isolation, economic crisis, stress, and trauma. This investment will help Communities In Schools of North Carolina carry out its mission to remove barriers that stand in the way of opportunity and student success.”

CISNC believes that transformative relationships are vital to unlocking a student's potential. Our staff works inside schools to improve school climate; ensure students are attending and engaged in learning, mitigate, and build strong skills for positive behavior, reduce barriers to academic success and engage parents and families in the long-term success of their student.

For more than 30 years, CISNC has demonstrated measurable success in student outcomes as well as supporting a network of 18 independent CIS organizations statewide. In the 2020-2021 school year, 98 percent of students enrolled in CIS programs statewide remained in school, with 95 percent of K-11 students being promoted to the next grade, and 97 percent of seniors graduating or receiving a GED.

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CISNC has also seen success with two new programs. The Jobs for North Carolina's Graduates program prepares students in the 11-12th grades for careers and college with a 99% graduation rate. The Reentry to Resilience program supports youth transitioning from Youth Development Centers back into their home communities.

"This donation will help CISNC leverage our impact in North Carolina. The goal of CISNC is to partner with students, families, and educators, building educational equity for all students," said Ben Pysch, Senior Vice President of Corporate Banking for PNC Bank and Chair of the Communities In Schools of North Carolina Board of Directors.

The CISNC board of directors is in the beginning stages of creating a plan for the funds with an eye toward long-term sustainability of our programs, deepening our impact, and furthering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work across our state-wide network of 18 affiliates.

This gift is part of a transformative \$133.5 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to the Communities In Schools Network and National Office. Two other North Carolina Communities In Schools affiliates were recipients of gifts from Scott.

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Audio assets: CISNC podcast topic: Student Reengagement during COVID [Power of One podcast](#)

Visual assets: B-roll and stills: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1xoddh5et5ek0hz/AAAoDVQcVc-EWG4IxQIU8GCJa?dl=0>

Interviews Available: Jill Cox, CISNC President & CEO
Ben Pysch, SVP Corporate Banking, PNC, CISNC Board Chair
Jolly Manning, CISNC Student Reengagement Coordinator

About Communities In Schools of North Carolina

Working directly in schools across the state, Communities In Schools building relationships with students to empower them to stay in school and succeed in life. CISNC Specialists connect students to strong relationships with caring adults, evidence-based services, employer engagement opportunities, juvenile reentry services and community resources to empower them to learn, thrive and power the future. Learn more at www.cisnc.org and stay connected with CISNC via our [Power of One podcast](#), on [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).