

Strategy 4

Active Learning

CS² Network-Wide Results: Active Learning (2007-2008)

Number of Programs	Students Impacted	Parents/Guardians Engaged	Staff Engaged	Community Partners
5	327	21	8	8

CS² Site: Amherst Regional Public Schools, Amherst

Program: Minority Student Achievement Network, Leadership Seminar

A CS² Entrepreneur facilitated this third-year sociology course to empower student leaders of color—through scholarship, leadership, and direct action—to work on closing the achievement gap. She also co-organized the 2008 MSAN Regional Youth Summit and acted as the Amherst Regional High School co-liaison to the MSAN National Network, which joins schools from across the U.S. in conducting research, analyzing policies, and examining practices that affect the academic performance of minority students. MSAN students participated in the Anti-Defamation League's *A World of Difference* Anti-Bias trainings, and created a video discussing the effectiveness of the leadership seminar. Action projects begun during the seminar continue next school year through an Alternative Learning Program.

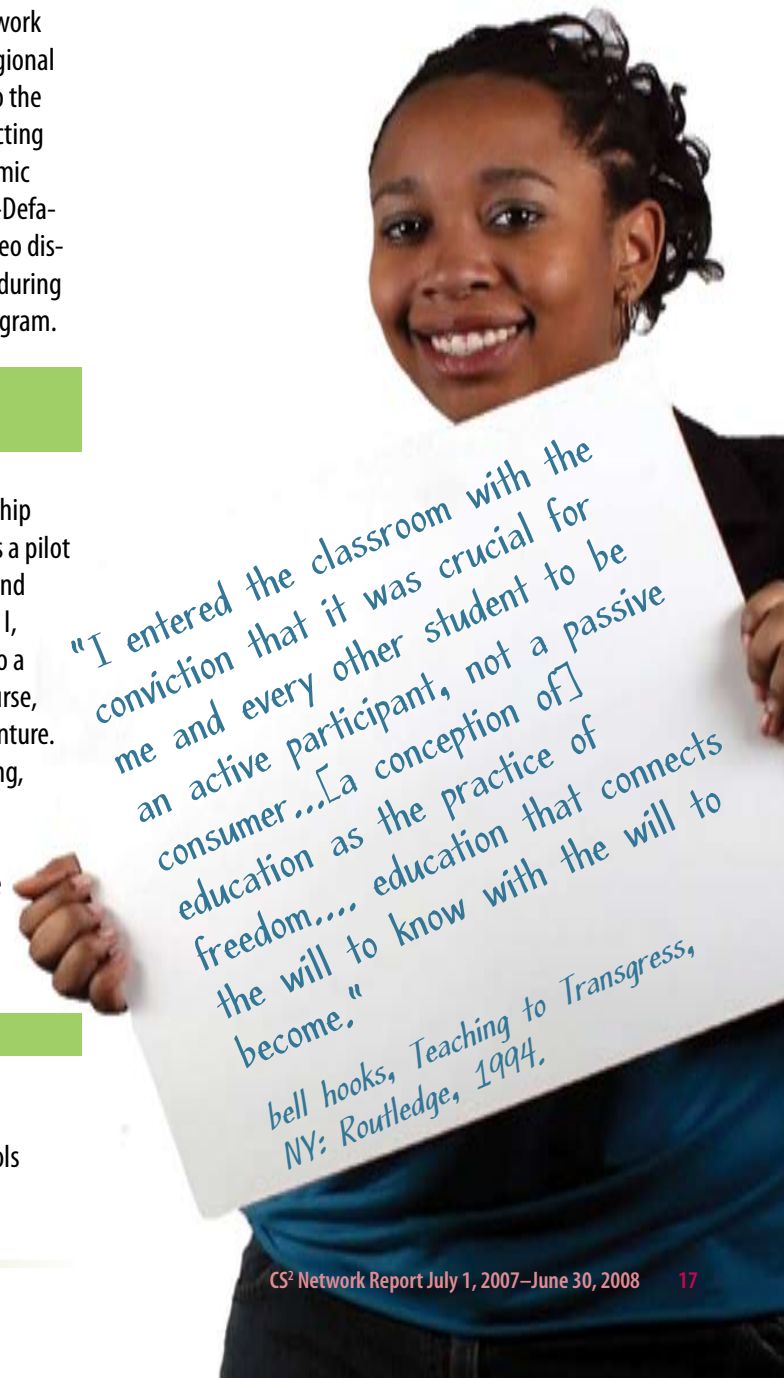
CS² Site: City of New Bedford, New Bedford

Program: Entrepreneurship Initiative

Since 2003, CS² has developed and continues to manage the Entrepreneurship program at New Bedford High School. Teaching Entrepreneurship began as a pilot summer work and learning program for disconnected, low-income youth and evolved into two full credit courses at the high school. In Entrepreneurship I, students develop their business plan and present them using PowerPoint to a panel of business and community members. In the Entrepreneurship II course, students form business teams and turn their plans into a moneymaking venture. Both courses provide curriculum that spark enthusiasm, personalize learning, and incorporate real world lessons. In addition, Entrepreneurship II incorporates 21st Century skills through team-building and leadership development as students elect officers, operate their business, and prepare a year-end financial report. At the end of the semester, select students are eligible to present their plan at a regional competition.

Additional CS² Network Active Learning Programs

- Senior Year Options, Amherst Regional Public Schools
- Youth in Unity, Brockton Public Schools
- Young Women's Empowerment Program, Amherst Regional Public Schools



"I entered the classroom with the conviction that it was crucial for me and every other student to be an active participant, not a passive consumer...[a conception of] education as the practice of freedom.... education that connects the will to know with the will to become."

bell hooks, Teaching to Transgress, NY: Routledge, 1994.