



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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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β Member of CS² network since 1994

β 6 schools involved in CS²: Brockton High School; North, East, and West Junior High Schools; South Middle School, and Gilmore Academy

β 2 Entrepreneurs

β 700+ students participated in CS² programming

β \$ 1,814,724 public and private funds secured

β \$ 83,000 donations secured