



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.

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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.

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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.

Local Workshops

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

Community-Service Learning (CSL)

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.

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β Member of CS² network since 2000

β 3 schools involved in CS²: New Bedford High School, Normandin Middle School, and Hayden-McFadden Elementary School

β 3 Entrepreneurs

β 3,540 students participated in CS² programming

β \$185,258 public and private funds secured

β \$63,926 in-kind donations secured