



The mission of Communities In Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

CISMBC – Georgia College Partnership – FY13

Communities In Schools of Milledgeville-Baldwin County (CISMBC) was brought to our community by leaders who realized that a prepared, educated workforce was a critical ingredient to overall economic recovery and prosperity.

In our third year serving Baldwin County Schools, CISMBC provided services and support to four schools serving 50% of our public schools. In addition, CISMBC was among the first Georgia affiliates to obtain TQS Accreditation.

We attribute our success to many things, our: Board of Directors, leadership, staff, volunteers, school system, and community partners, etc. Our partnership with Georgia College has been fundamental in our success.

Benefits for CISMBC: Georgia College provides meaningful financial support for CISMBC. In 2012-2013 GC provided 50% of the Executive Director's salary, Executive Director's benefits, and office space on campus

In addition to financial support – GC contributes to our mission through volunteers – student, faculty and staff; and provides vital back-office support (i.e., Human Resources, Payroll and Grant Management). The President of GC and the Dean of the College of Education serve on the CISMBC Board of Directors.

Benefits for Georgia College: Research shows that community service has a variety of positive effects on college students, including enhanced civic responsibility, increased academic development, better GPAs, and heightened aspirations for advanced degrees. Students who participate in community service tended to spend more time studying, had greater contact with faculty members, increased social self-confidence, and enhanced leadership ability. (Journal of College Student Development, May/June 1998).

Our partnership affords a huge opportunity for Georgia College students to strengthen their sense of giving back, encourages social responsibility, and prepares students for active citizenship. As volunteers, GC students gain the propensity for active involvement in their future communities. Additionally, the partnership allows GC to strengthen community ties and positive public relations. This all supports the university's goal of creating a better community and state.

The CISMBC Model for Student Success opened the door for GC students, allowing their creativity, intelligence and compassion to reach deep into our community to make a difference. In the past, students wanted to serve in the schools and teachers wanted them to help, but no means existed to facilitate these efforts. Now, our site coordinators, along with talented and enthusiastic GC volunteers, are ready, willing and able to orchestrate our mission on the front lines.

This unique partnership has been extremely fruitful, not only for CISMBC, but for GC, its students, and most importantly – the students we serve in the Baldwin County School System.

2012-2013 Partnership Efforts

Volunteer opportunities provide hands-on experience in business, marketing, education, recreation, community health -- and more. CISMBC helps engage the university community in creating a learning environment for accomplishing the liberal arts mission, promote intellectual excellence in faculty and students, and enhance student centeredness.

The GC GIVE Center, led by **Kendall Stiles**, has been a vital partner. The GIVE Center supports every aspect of our program by providing trained volunteers to tutor, mentor, coordinate family events, teach art, read to students, educate parents, and more. The GIVE Center has an excellent system for tracking, training, and orienting volunteers. CISMBC finds the partnership so valuable that we fund a student to work in the GIVE Center office as the CISMBC Volunteer Coordinator. The GIVE Center's commitment to collaboration, volunteerism, and local outreach, not only has made it possible for CISMBC to expand literacy efforts, but has time and again demonstrated that amazing things can be accomplished when we serve together.

GIVE general volunteers assisted or led the following programs: High School Leadership Conference- Smiley Kids Club (dental hygiene) -Read for the Record –Sequins & Smile-(formals for HS girls in exchange for civic service)-School Supply Drive/School Uniform Drive-Tutors for March Madness (Saturdays in March in preparation for CRCT) –Fall Festival, Field Day, Bike Safety Day, Career Day and more.

The GIVE Center recruited students and partnered with CISMBC for a very successful Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Together we worked with AmeriCorps Tutors throughout Georgia, Georgia Power and school administrators to complete several projects at Eagle Ridge Elementary School.

Community Health-Dr. Funke has supported CISMBC from the beginning and her classes work with us throughout the year. She allows us to meet with her class to recruit volunteers. Dr. Funke provided us with an intern that worked with our ASPIRE Program at the Early Learning Center and co-coordinated a community wide Literacy Fair. Community Health Students provide the Scrubby Bear – Disease Transmission Prevention Program. In addition, Community Health students delivered -Nutrition classes, Fitness Gram, Smoking Prevention, and Zumba in schools this year. An intern for a partner agency – Oconee Prevention Resource Council – initiated the TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) program in Baldwin High School.

College of Education -Dr. Jane Hinson, Dean of the CoE, serves on the CISMBC Board. She provided two 10 hour Graduate Assistants to recruit GC students to tutor and provide teacher assistance in Early College. In addition, in partnership with **Megan Bowen**, 37 student volunteers were recruited to tutor students in our 4 Baldwin County Schools.

Government & Sociology -Criminal Justice – Dr. Sara Doude, Dr. Sandra Godwin, and Dr. Stephanie McClure allowed CIS to speak with class to recruit volunteers. Dr. Doude's students provided a program – *Parents Communicating with Preschoolers*—for our Parents in the ASPIRE Program, as well as a Dating Violence Prevention Program at Baldwin High School.

Financial Aid – Beth Gamble provides support by allowing us to place 5 work-study students as tutors 7 – 10 hours weekly. In addition, America Reads Federal Work Study students have been assigned to CISMBC to be placed as reading tutors – 15 – 20 hours a week.

College of Business – Dale Young continued to support CISMBC by providing a Graduate Assistant to serve 20 hours a week as our Business/Office Manager. She worked to ensure all documentation for our accreditation standards was current and filled in wherever needed – including coordination of a fundraiser. **Renee Fontenot** led a GC extra-curricular group, **Enactus**, to provide a “friend-raiser” student event as part of Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration.

Extended University: Mark Pelton serves as Georgia College leadership/CISMBC supervisor. **Office of Grants- Donna Douglas and Tracy Norris** assisted with renewal of the GOCF grant and ensured compliance. **Robin Lewis** assisted with a collaborative grant application.

Mass Communications- provided a student to work with our social media, updating our website, and initiating a Twitter account. We will host a Mass Communication intern this summer.

Modern Languages and Cultures – Marlena Romero invited CISMBC to speak to her students to recruit volunteers.

Georgia College Library-Liz Thompson led the community *Read Across America* event. CISMBC collaborated with Liz to supervise the event at three of our sites.

CISMBC and the GC GIVE Center tracked 163 volunteers - 94 of those were tutors.

Volunteer hours: General volunteers- GIVE Center - 713 * College of Education volunteers – 207 *

Interns - 720 * Community Health -231 * America Reads Federal Work Study – 810 *

Work Study Volunteers - 1,000 * Graduate Assistants -1,120

(CISMBC is continually working to increase the accuracy of volunteer hours. Currently we depend on the GIVE Center and student sign-in sheets for numbers and report only the hours that can be verified. These hours do not reflect the volunteer efforts of Georgia College faculty and staff.)

CISMBC funded GC student staff: FY13 - Kymberly Hrossowyc - AmeriCorps Tutor – funded by CISMBC to work 20 hours a week at Eagle Ridge Elementary. **Lexi Kraft** was hired 20 hours a week to work in the GIVE Center to provide support for GC students volunteering to work with CISMBC.

FY14 - Jessica Kennedy Choice, Community Health Intern, has been hired as our Site Services Director. **Chase Greeson**, Community Health Volunteer, has been hired as our AmeriCorps VISTA. **Whitney McCorkle** has been hired 20 hours a week to work in the GIVE Center.