



CIS of Milledgeville/Baldwin County

Partnership creates strong workforce in weak economy

The nation's economic recession hit hard in Baldwin County, a rural community in middle Georgia with 45,000 residents. More than 5,000 jobs vanished, and unemployment soared to 14.4 percent.

Undaunted, community leaders rolled up their sleeves and brainstormed ways to create a first-rate workforce that would entice new businesses to locate in the county.

In late 2009 they launched Communities In Schools of Milledgeville-Baldwin County. Since then, CISMBC has pioneered an innovative approach to help create a well-prepared local workforce. It has tapped into the county's richest resource

– its colleges, which include Georgia Military College, Central Georgia Technical College, and Georgia College & State University.

In 2012 -- after just two years assisting the public school system -- CISMBC served 50 percent of the area's eight schools. It had established two comprehensive sites, and provided services and support to two additional schools.

Such swift success stems from strong collaboration from many quarters, ranging from boards of directors and public school employees, to volunteers and community businesses.

The strongest partnership is with Georgia College.



Georgia College is a generous supporter of the CIS mission to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

How the partnership benefits CISMBC

Financial Support: In 2011, Georgia College provided 25% of the Executive Director's salary, increasing that donation to 50% in 2012. Georgia College also provides office space and has donated more than \$7,000 in computers, laptops, and printers to support student office staff.

Human Resources: Georgia College contributes to the Communities In Schools mission by providing talented and motivated volunteers from its pool of students, staff, and professors. It also provides vital personnel, payroll and grant management support.

Georgia College Reaps Rewards from Unique Alliance with CISMBC

Research shows that community service has a profound impact on college students. According to *The Journal of College Student Development*, volunteer service builds a student's sense of civic responsibility, increases academic achievement, boosts GPAs,

and heightens aspirations for advanced degrees. Students who participate in community service tend to spend more time studying, have more contact with faculty members, experience increased social self-confidence, and develop strong leadership abilities.

Working with CISMBC, students at Georgia College and State University are experiencing these benefits first hand. Meanwhile, the college has stronger community ties and a greater aura of goodwill through positive public relations.

For More Information

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