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## **Northwest Halifax High School students to receive wraparound supports from Communities In Schools thanks to a grant from AT&T**

**Littleton, NC, December 7, 2016** – With \$125,000 in support from AT&T, Communities In Schools of North Carolina (CISNC) will be able to provide Northwest Halifax High School students with schoolwide and wraparound services to increase attendance, improve behavior, enhance coursework and engage more parents and families in student success.

Services will be officially launched with a program at Northwest Halifax High School on Wednesday, Dec. 7, starting at 1:30 p.m. The address is 8492 Highway 48, Littleton, NC 27850.

In August, CISNC received a \$750,000 Aspire grant from AT&T to support CISNC's Powering the Future program, which serves students in grades 9-12 in six rural high schools where graduation rates are far below the state average, and fewer than 25% of students are grade-level-proficient.

Northwest Halifax High School students face a combination of academic and non-academic barriers. Compared to the state graduation rate of 85.8%, Halifax County High School students graduate at a rate of 76%. Within Halifax County, 36% of children under the age of 18 live in poverty.

Reaching students who are most at risk of not thriving in school and removing the multiple barriers that limit their success is accomplished by placing a student support specialist in the school to engage with school leadership, teachers and students. Communities In Schools has a two-prong action plan for Northwest Halifax High School: to create a comprehensive school plan to address schoolwide needs and to drill down to create individual student success plans for those who need intensive help.

"Our approach to helping students succeed has been successful in schools across the state," said President and CEO of Communities In Schools of North Carolina Dr. Eric Hall. "By providing and coordinating the right services and supports for each school and each student we serve, we are able to see 98% of our high school students graduate. I'm proud of the work we are doing and the partnerships emerging here at Northwest Halifax High School."

Ella Hargrove recently joined Communities In Schools as a student support specialist at Northwest Halifax High School. Hargrove has a social work background, which includes case management skills, social and emotional development and working with families. She previously worked as a foster care and adoptions social worker at the Vance County Department of Social Services.

“For every young person, a high school diploma is essential, not only for future success in academics or their career, but as a milestone which affirms they can accomplish what they set out to do,” said Venessa Harrison, president of AT&T North Carolina. “At AT&T, we see young people as the future of our company, our communities, and our country. That’s why, through Aspire, we support programs that invest in students, especially those who need it the most, so they can walk across the graduation stage with excitement, prepared for success in the next chapter of their lives.”

### **About Communities In Schools of North Carolina**

Communities In Schools of North Carolina (CISNC) is a leading partner in providing Integrated Student Supports or wraparound services to propel student success in more than 300 schools across the state. Based directly inside schools, student support specialists connect students and their families to evidence-based services and supports as well as critical educational and community-based resources, to increase attendance, improve behavior, enhance coursework and engage more parents and families in student success. Tailored to each student’s specific needs, student support specialists create personalized toolkits for success and an educational experience where students can learn, thrive and power the future. Learn more at [www.cisnc.org](http://www.cisnc.org), and stay connected with CISNC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T**

AT&T is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T’s signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring. Through Aspire, we’ve passed the \$250 million mark on our plan to invest \$350 million in education from 2008-2017.

### **About Halifax County Schools**

Halifax County Schools is a PK-12 school district. The district consists of six elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. Dr. Eric Cunningham serves as Superintendent of Halifax County Schools. The school system is committed to providing appropriate educational programs that will allow all students to achieve at a high level of success. For more information, contact Chatesha Dickens at 252-583-4111 or [dickensc@halifax.k12.nc.us](mailto:dickensc@halifax.k12.nc.us).