



## *Corporate Academy South High School*

*Dr. Brooks; Principal*

Corporate Academy South is extremely proud and would like to recognize two of our distinguished seniors. Both Christopher Aponte and Ailema Gonzalez submitted essays to Do the Right Thing of Miami, Inc. Do the Right Thing of Miami, Inc recognizes and rewards the youth in our community for positive behavior, actions, and accomplishments. Every month students from all over Dade County submit essays on how they have done the right thing by changing their behavior. Out of the many essays they receive, they choose to honor 10 top winners who are invited to an award ceremony in the lobby of the Miami Dade Police Department. These students are eligible to receive savings bonds, passes to attractions, and a lot more. Each month one top middle or high school student is chosen as the “Special Recognition” winner and wins an all expense paid trip to London, England. This year the Special Recognition winner is Corporate Academy South’s very own Christopher Aponte. Christopher wrote in his essay how attending Corporate Academy South has helped him become a turn around student. For the month of December, Ailema Gonzalez is one of the top 10 students invited to the award ceremony on December 18<sup>th</sup>, where she will be given her award.





## Happy Holidays from All of Us to All of You!

The Communities In Schools of Miami family wishes you and your loved ones a beautiful and safe holiday season, filled with much love, good health, and many blessings. May Joy, Love and Peace be with you and your family this New Year!



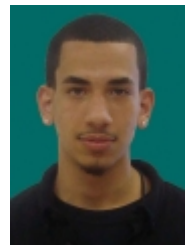
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

## JPMorgan Chase Foundation Awards \$25,000 Grant to CIS of Miami

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation awarded \$25,000 to Communities In Schools of Miami's AmeriCorps Miami Reads! program. The grant will serve as match funds for six AmeriCorps members who serve as literacy tutors in Liberty City Elementary and Charles Drew Elementary, providing free individual and small group tutoring to approximately sixty (60) children who are behind in their reading levels. The tutoring is offered daily at the school site during the school day. "The children thrive from the individual attention they receive," said Guency Cothiere, the MiamiReads! Project Coordinator. In addition to tutoring, the AmeriCorps members participate in numerous community service projects throughout Miami-Dade County as part of their year of service. "I love working with the children and the feeling I get of really making a difference in my community," said Elqwanzaa Watson, a second year AmeriCorps member. Thank you, JPMorgan . for helping us make that difference!

## CIS Miami Student Wins Trip to London for "Do the Right Thing" Award

Communities in Schools of Miami is extremely proud and would like to recognize two of our distinguished Seniors from Corporate Academy South. Both Christopher Aponte and Ailema Gonzalez submitted essays to the *Do the Right Thing of Miami, Inc.* program. *Do the Right Thing of Miami, Inc.* recognizes and rewards youth in our community for positive behavior, actions, and accomplishments. Every month students from all over Miami-Dade county submit essays on how they have done the right thing by changing their behavior. Out of the many essays they receive, they choose to honor 10 top winners who are invited to an award ceremony in the lobby of the Miami-Dade Police Department. These students are eligible to receive savings bonds, passes to attractions, and a lot more. Each month one top middle or high school student is chosen as the "Special Recognition" winner and wins an all expense paid trip to



London, England. This year the Special Recognition winner is Corporate Academy South's very own Christopher Aponte. Christopher wrote about how attending Corporate Academy South, one of the school of choice co-founded by Communities In Schools, has helped him become a turn-around student. For the month of December, Ailema Gonzalez is one of the top 10 students invited to the award ceremony on December 18<sup>th</sup>, where she will be given her award.

Both students are part of Communities In Schools of Miami's Magic City Mentor Program. Ailema Gonzalez has been in the program for two years and says that "being in the program has really helped me change my life because it showed me how college can really help me. My mentor has been there to support me."



### **Payless Shoes 4 Kids Chooses CIS of Miami as a Partner**

For the second year in a row, Payless ShoeSource has selected Communities In Schools of Miami to be a partner in their *Payless Shoes 4 Kids* program – a grass roots effort to deliver \$1.2 million of free shoes to children of families in need for the holiday season. Seven hundred non-profits across the nation were selected, with more than 2,900 agencies applying.



As a *Payless Shoes 4 Kids* partner, Communities In Schools of Miami received 200 \$15 shoe gift coupons to distribute to the children and youth, redeemable at any Payless ShoeSource store. All gift coupons will be distributed before December 24th and our CIS of Miami staff has started organizing field trips for students to select their own shoes at their local Payless ShoeSource stores.

CIS of Miami knows from experience how much the gift of a new pair of shoes means to the young people who receive them. "We are so excited to be a partner in this wonderful program for the second year. What a wonderful way to start the holidays. Our students and families are going to be so happy and appreciative. We can't wait to take them to the Payless ShoeSource stores," said Elizabeth Mejia, CIS of Miami's Executive Director.

**[Click here](#) to make a donation to Communities In Schools of Miami.  
Together we are making a difference! The kids of CIS Thank You!**