



Communities in Schools of Tacoma receives national accreditation.

Daniel J. Cardinali, President, CIS National, announced that the first four affiliates in the network have gone through the Total Quality System (TQS) accreditation process. "It was a long road, and I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the following affiliates and their executive directors for being the first to undergo the accreditation process and become TQS compliant:

Communities in Schools of Tacoma; Teresa Maxwell
Communities In Schools of Clay County; Theresa Waldroup
Communities In Schools of the Midlands; Terry Linder
Communities In Schools of Richmond; Harold Fitrer, Ed.D.

Completing the TQS accreditation process is a tremendous accomplishment in which everyone involved can take great pride. It will help us build on our strengths and become even stronger advocates for the millions of young people we serve every day."

Communities In Schools of Tacoma currently operates at seven school sites; Fern Hill, Edison, Sherman and Sheridan Elementary Schools in addition to Tacoma Business Academy, Mt. Tahoma and Oakland High Schools.

Two years ago Communities in Schools National rolled out their Total Quality System, a comprehensive set of integrated policies and standards designed to reinforce our commitment to evidence-based practice and accountability. Communities in Schools of Tacoma was selected as one of the first four affiliates to go through the accreditation process and we were the only one on the West Coast.

TQS is based on the complete integration of the CIS Model into an affiliate's operations. The model requires at least a .5 FTE site coordinator housed at the school, who coordinates the delivery of integrated, evidence-based services to address school and individual student needs. 10% of the school's population must be receiving direct intervention services which can range anywhere from academic support to basic need fulfillment. In addition, the site coordinator works with the school to design and implement at least 8 whole school events that serve 75% of the school population. Examples include reading and math nights, cultural celebrations and school assemblies.

Communities in Schools of Tacoma received full accreditation in December of 2009.