



---

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 5, 2018**

**Contact: Debra Joiner**  
**Director of Communications**  
[djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org](mailto:djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org)  
**(512) 464-9783**

## **Communities In Schools of Central Texas Elects Five New Board Members**

**(AUSTIN, TEXAS)** – Communities In Schools of Central Texas, a non-profit organization that has been proven to decrease dropout rates and ensure more students graduate from Central Texas schools, has elected five new members to the organization’s Board of Directors. The new members are: Vanessa Gonzalez, Craig Hester, Aynsley Interiano, Michael Raiford, and Shaku Selvakumar.

The new board members will serve three year terms. This diverse group brings great experience and expertise to Communities In Schools, and their bios can be found online at [ciscentraltexas.org](http://ciscentraltexas.org).

“I look forward to working with these passionate and talented individuals who are broadly connected in the community. I know that they will strengthen our board in numerous ways and will help support the CIS mission of empowering area students to stay in school and achieve in life,” says Communities In Schools of Central Texas CEO Suki Steinhauser.

### **ABOUT COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS**

When students are hungry, experiencing homelessness, or are preoccupied with concerns for an unemployed parent or violence at home, they can’t learn. That means they’re disengaged in the classroom themselves, and can be a distraction to their classmates. CIS ensures that students are connected to resources to help meet basic needs like food, shelter, counseling, and clothing. The result is dramatically reduced discipline referrals and more engagement in learning, for them and their peers, letting teachers teach, and improving outcomes for all students.

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. Last year, we served over 50,000 individuals in 66 schools with services ranging from mental health counseling to crisis intervention, basic needs assistance, mentoring, and academic intervention. Nearly 6,000 students received intensive case management. Of the children we serve, 99% stay in school and 84% improve their grades, attendance, or behavior.

Learn more about our programs online at [ciscentraltexas.org](http://ciscentraltexas.org).

To interview the CIS CEO, Suki Steinhauser, or a CIS Program Manager who works directly on a school campus, please contact Debra Joiner, Director of Communications to schedule an interview. 512-464-9783 or at [djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org](mailto:djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org)