

Communities In Schools of Atlanta NEWS

WORKING WITH ATLANTA AND DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOLS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE STAY IN SCHOOL AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

June 7, 2005

CIS Celebrates Young People "Choosing Success" on May 11



***They're No. 1!** Larry Guilford (second from left) and Dallas Campbell (far right), CIS Coordinators at Long Middle School, stand proudly with four of the students from Long Middle School who developed the winning service project. (From left) Brittany Anderson, Joseph Brown, Brianca Anderson, and Terrico Paige.*

CIS of Atlanta offered CIS students at each of its 38 schools an opportunity to plan their own community service projects, apply for a mini-grants of up to \$800 to implement their ideas, and submit their finished project to a CIS-sponsored competition.

On May 11, CIS sponsored the "Choose Success" Luncheon at the Loudermilk Center in downtown Atlanta to honor the 10 student groups who participated in the initiative, and to recognize individual students who had turned their lives around. More than 120 students, parents, principals, and community supporters attended the event.

First prize went to a group of students at [Long Middle School](#) who

decided that the best way to improve their community was to help the residents help themselves. They created a service project that featured a job fair for adults and included workshops on interviewing skills and resume writing. First prize was \$500 to their school and \$25 gift certificates for every participating student. "The kids really stepped up and became leaders," said Larry Guilford, assistant CIS Program coordinator at Long Middle School. "They got together and brainstormed some ideas, and then chose the best one. They did a great job."

Students from [D.H. Stanton Elementary School](#) won second prize with a project to plant a community garden. Third place went to [South Atlanta High School](#) students who cleaned up a neighborhood park, installed a new basketball goal, and hosted a basketball tournament.

During the luncheon, CIS also gave awards to eight students nominated by their schools for outstanding individual achievements during the school year in improving their school attendance or behavior.

The Choose Success program was made possible by a grant from the [Philip Morris Foundation](#). ■