

Community School for Creative Education

AFFILIATIONS

Community School for Creative Education (CSCE) has worked with key partners from its design phase through its current operations.

1. The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA)

CSCE is affiliated with the CCSA. The CCSA is the membership and professional organization serving the more than 500 public charter schools in the State of California.

Its mission is to improve student achievement by strengthening and expanding California's quality public charter school movement. The CCSA serves its membership and will strengthen the charter school movement through focus in the following areas:

Advocacy: CCSA is the collective grassroots voice of California's charter schools and charter school stakeholders. They advocate for increased flexibility and funding for all charter schools. The CCSA communicates the strength and potential of charter education to the broader community.

Leadership & Quality: CCSA focuses on leadership development and accountability in a manner that helps the charter school movement to grow. Their goal is to bring high-quality charter schools to every community in order to bring about lasting reform.

Member Services: CCSA provides an array of products, services, expertise and financing tools to strengthen their member schools and allow them to focus on what matters most: educating students.

In addition, the CCSA makes available three years of support to the founding principal of The CSCE by equipping the school leader with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to create and operate high performing charter schools. This leadership support includes:

- Charter law expertise
- Fiscal management and budget expertise
- Facilities acquisition expertise
- Fundraising/grant writing expertise
- Insurance expertise
- Technical assistance and support
- Help desk access

To date, primary support, consultation, training and expertise has been provided by a wide range of CCSA experts from Willow Harrington, then assistant director for school development, and Alice Miller from the CCSA, who guided us in CCSA's Charter Launch 2008-2010. To Mr. Patrick Walsh, Regional Director. CCSA.

2. Faith in Action East Bay (FIAEB) [formerly Oakland Community Organizations (FIAEB)]

FIAEB is a 30-year old federation of 40 congregation and school-based organizations with African American, Latino, Asian and Caucasian constituencies. Its mission is to develop leaders who build power through their organizations to bring about systemic change and improve the quality of life for their families. Organizing campaigns have involved thousands of people to shape policy and provide resources for affordable housing, health care, safety and school improvement. FIAEB is affiliated with the PICO National Network.

FIAEB has been a leader in mobilizing community support to increase educational options for families in Oakland's flatlands, and FIAEB leaders have been co-founders of a host of high performing small and charter schools in Oakland's flatlands, whose disproportionately high levels of productivity in student learning have most recently been documented by Stanford University's Linda Darling Hammond in her October 2008 study of the Oakland New Small Schools Initiative (Linda Darling Hammond, 2008).

CSCE is an Oakland Community Organizations member. CSCE Design Team Member Velia Navarro is FIAEB Board Member. CSCE's Velia Navarro, Samantha Lehman and Ida Oberman have completed the FIAEB leadership training and are certified FIAEB leaders, pending petition approval, with funds from the San Francisco Foundation, CSCE teachers and parents will engage in FIAEB leader training.

To date, primary support and leadership development has been provided by FIAEB Organizer for CSCE Emma Paulino. Emma has led the launch and development of the CSCE Local Organizing Committee (LOC) which meets monthly to advance the work of the school initiative through leadership development of its community members. Emma Paulino has been a full-time organizer with FIAEB for three and a half years. Prior to her organizing work at FIAEB, she was a leader with St. Elizabeth/FIAEB for six years. Emma provided organizing support for a small school's policy in Oakland and collaborated on the design and organization of ASCEND, a K-8 school in East Oakland, which was one of the first small, autonomous schools developed in Oakland Unified School District (**OUSD**). Emma was born in Michoacán, Mexico, and has been in the U.S. since 1985. She has three children who have all attended Oakland Public Schools. Ms. Paulino was also FIAEB lead in founding ARISE High School (see below).

CSCE Executive Director Dr Ida Oberman is a 2015-2017 FIAEB Board Member and Board Secretary for the past five years.

3. Private Waldorf Community

Three other important partners binding CSCE strongly into the Waldorf community are: the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, particular partnership with the Intercultural Waldorf School in Germany and the Zenzeleni School for Creative Education in the township of Khayelitsha by Cape Town, South Africa, as well as international Waldorf community and a ties with the head of the pedagogical section supporting Waldorf schools worldwide. The California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAEE) and Free Intercultural Waldorf School in Mannheim Germany and Zenzeleni School for Creative Education in Cape Town, South Africa.

4. **Friends of Waldorf Education/Emergency Waldorf Pedagogy ‘Emergency Pedagogy Without Borders’**

Friends of Waldorf Education’s Emergency Pedagogy Team under the direction of Mr. Bernd Ruf visited the school for a three-day seminar on trauma-informed care every other year since 2013 and since 2018 is founding faculty of the Mills School of Education Waldorf Professional Development Certificate Program.

Since 2016, CSCE is the California/USA Center for Emergency Pedagogy. In 2018, the California/USA Emergency Pedagogy team, comprised of school staff, family and community leaders from San Antonio, joined by educators and parents from the San Francisco Waldorf School, engaged in the country’s first Emergency Pedagogy intervention to support families and educators affected by the Campfire Paradise, CA.

5. **Waldorf communities, both public and private**

The Alliance for Public Waldorf Education is the membership and professional organization serving the 46 public charter schools in the country grounding their practices in Waldorf education. Founding member Woodland Star Charter School, a Sonoma K-8 Waldorf-inspired school, has agreed to serve as CSCE’s critical friends as has Sacramento City Unified’s John F. Morse Waldorf School, the only non-charter urban public elementary Waldorf methods school in the country at present. John Morse and Cheryl Eining (former principals) have served as CSCE board members, providing us with particularly strong opportunities for learning.

Rudolf Steiner College, one of America’s leading Waldorf teacher education colleges, offers Waldorf teacher training to Alliance member schools and private Waldorf schools. It has agreed to work with CSCE in offering professional development to CSCE teachers. CSCE is working with other Alliance-member Waldorf charters to build benchmark tests for participating Waldorf charters under the auspices of California Charter Schools Association’s Zoom Schools program

Another important partner in the Waldorf community outside of the US is with the ***Free Intercultural Waldorf School*** in Mannheim, Germany [Freie Interkulturelle Waldorfschule]. This German Waldorf school is of particular interest to us for its demographic and achievement levels. 50% are migrant children; the student body represents eleven languages; 50% of the students are German language learners and 50% are deemed special needs children. Founded in 2003, the school won attention for the high scores it received in 2005 on the PISA test, the German comparable to California’s California Standards Test. This Waldorf school is currently part of an evaluation to better track the design and implementation of its language program. A teacher and the director of the Free Intercultural Waldorf School have agreed to serve as sounding board to CSCE as we build our language program.

In South Africa, ***Zenzeleni School for Creative Education*** in the Cape Town township of Khayelitsha, South Africa, has been a valuable partner as has been the Centre for Creative Education which offers Waldorf and government teacher professional development for Zenzeleni teachers. The CSCE Director visited the site in 2007 and two members of the Design Team, both OUSD teachers, visited the site summer 2009 on a Marcus Foster grant to study use of Waldorf methods in South African Waldorf schools. As Zenzeleni students come from multiple languages and live in high poverty, and Zenzeleni works in strong partnership with the Centre for Creative

Education to offer teacher Waldorf and government certified professional development, Zenzeleni strategies and structures have offered learnings for CSCE, and Zenzeleni and Center for creative Education staff have offered important community.

The head of the *Pedagogical Section of the Goetheanum*, center of Waldorf education worldwide headquartered in Dornach, Switzerland, Mr. Christof Wiechert, has offered to serve as sounding board as time and resources permit because of his special and longtime relation with Dr. Ida Oberman.

6. FIAEB's San Antonio Alliance of African American Churches and Schools.

The San Antonio Alliance of African American Churches and Schools grew from the organizing work of FIAEB Organizer Reverend Ken Chambers and San Antonio's Israelite Baptist Church Senior and Junior Ministers Reverend Phil Lewis and Reverend Kevin Ary. All three were active in the "Night Walks" a part of the national Ceasefire effort, and wanted to extend the work of community lift up in the San Antonio by now focusing on children and youth in school under the banner "catch them early, catch them safe".

In 2013, with support of a grant from the San Francisco Foundation Faith Initiative, the Alliance was able to invite a community of parishioners to engage in TALKS Mentoring training with founder and mentor of TALKS Mentoring, Dr. Howard Davis. The moment of the grant award intersected with CSCE's opening at its current location in the San Antonio neighborhood. Within the first week of the school year 2012-2013, Reverend Chambers, Reverend Louise and Reverend Kevin Ari visited the school and offered mentoring to its then highest grade, 5th grade. Since the relationship has matured, a team of mentors has been guiding current 7th graders for three years, and the mentors for this year are poised to resume.

See Appendix 23 (Publicity & Research) for more footage of this crucial relationship for the children the school and the community. Also see "Reverend Lewis Tribute: Goodbye from CSCE 5th Grade" for a brief video when then 5th grade mentees said goodbye to Reverend Lewis when he moved to a parish in Los Angeles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36fBullJGfU>.

7. Families in Action for Quality Schools & the broader Oakland Charter Community

Lighthouse and ARISE Charter High School in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) are key partners. Lighthouse Community Charter Co-Founder Jenna Stauffer has served as a critical sounding board. ARISE Co-Founder Laura Flaxman was on the design team of one of the first urban public Waldorf elementary schools, West Side Community School, on the edge of Harlem, New York, where CSCE Initiative Lead Ida Oberman served as Design Co-Lead. ARISE and CSCE remain mission aligned. ARISE juniors have also served on the CSCE design team.

Since 2018, CSCE has worked closely with charter and district colleagues through Families in Action for Quality Schools.

8. San Antonio Community

In the San Antonio community, seven partner organizations are of note. ***Lotus Bloom Child and Family Resource Center, Oakland Ready to Learn, Saint Anthony's Church, San Antonio Neighborhood Network, the Intertribal Friendship House, Lao Family Community Development*** and the ***Vietnamese Community Development Corporation***. Lotus Bloom's Founder Angela Howard, then Oakland Ready to Learn Director Kerry Forbord, and former Saint Anthony's Father Jesus each offered generous support through guidance and venues for outreach. Thanks to its Executive Director Carol Wahpepah, Intertribal Friendship House has been venue for demonstrations and outreach. San Antonio Neighborhood Network's Nhan Le was a CSCE Design Team member. Lao Family Community Development's Executive Director Kathy Chow provides opportunities for outreach and has also offered counsel. President Trung Duy Nguyen of the Vietnamese Community Development Inc. has provided his advice, his relations, and his site for a workshop on Waldorf education in Vietnamese for San Antonio's Vietnamese families given by Vietnamese Waldorf school founder and teacher educator Ms. Thanh Cherry when she was visiting from South East Asia.

9. Future Partnerships and Affiliations

CSCE will continue to proactively seek partnerships and affiliations with organizations, institutions and businesses that are aligned in mission and vision to our own, and that can provide services, support and financial opportunities than will help us fulfill our mission to serve our students and families.