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#AllInForKids

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City Councilman Saldaña Receives National Recognition for Helping Kids to Stay in School, Graduate and Succeed in Life

*Communities In Schools of San Antonio Announces
96 Percent Graduation Rate Among Case-Managed Students*

San Antonio, TX - [Communities In Schools](#) (CIS), the nation's largest and most effective dropout prevention organization, highlights its role in improving graduation rates and the leaders who have made a significant impact in their local communities. Rey Saldaña, alum of South San Antonio High School, is one of five honored by the national office as this year's CIS alumni *All In for Students Awards* winner.

"The success of our communities relies on caring adults who understand that all students have potential, but not all students have a caring adult. My success is the product of CIS coordinators who knew how to go all in to unlock my potential," said Councilman Saldaña.

The *All In for Students Awards*, created in 2007, honors the exemplary dedication of CIS staff, educators, community partners and CIS alumni, who go all in for students, empowering them to stay in school, graduate and go on to brighter futures. This year, one superintendent, one principal, one CIS coordinator, and two CIS alums from the national network of 155 affiliates received this prestigious recognition.

CIS of San Antonio is proud of their students' success with these results from the 2015-16 school year:

- **99 percent of CIS of San Antonio case-managed students stayed in school**
- **96 percent of eligible seniors graduated or received a GED**
- **95 percent of K-11 students were promoted to the next grade**
- **93 percent of K-11 students improved in academics, behavior and/or attendance**

"Kids come to school with so many barriers to learning, whether it's lack of food to eat, lack of adequate health care, or having to take extra responsibilities at home," said Jessica Weaver, Communities In Schools of San Antonio. "At CIS we work inside of schools to get each child the services they need so that they have less distractions and can focus on being a student."

Currently, CIS of San Antonio serves over 8,000 K-12 students in 99 schools with the support of more than 900 volunteers and 95 community partners.

"For 40 years Communities In Schools has helped millions of students graduate, but with the increase in what are known as "high poverty" schools, our services are needed now more than ever," said CIS President and CEO Dale Erquiaga. "Educational failure is the foundation of the cycle of poverty. To break the cycle, we need to keep kids in school and continue to increase graduation rates. We're all in for students, because we know that graduation is only the beginning."

As Communities In Schools prepares to enter its 40th year of providing Integrated Student Supports, the organization plans to call on more educators, policymakers and nonprofit partners in the field to utilize the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to bring this evidence-based program into more schools and districts.

To learn more about the *All In for Students Awards 2017* honorees, visit www.cissa.org.

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About Communities In Schools of San Antonio

Communities In Schools of San Antonio is part of the nation's largest and most effective dropout prevention organization, empowering students to succeed in school and achieve in life. Operating in more than 2,300 schools in the most challenged communities of 25 states and the District of Columbia, Communities In Schools serves 1.5 million young people and their families each year. Based directly inside schools, Communities In Schools connects students and their families to basic and critical educational and community-based resources, tailored to each student's specific needs. Learn more about Communities In Schools of San Antonio at www.cissa.org.