



Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc.
Helping Kids Succeed in School and in Life

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ExxonMobil's Karl Schmalz named Communities In Schools Texas Board Member of the Year

Schmalz credited with developing innovative initiatives to combat growing dropout crisis

April 18, 2007...Dallas, Texas...Communities In Schools (CIS) Texas has named Communities In Schools Dallas Region (CISDR) Board Chair Karl Schmalz its "Board Member of the Year." The honor, awarded statewide in conjunction with National Volunteer Week April 15 – 21, is given to a board member who exhibits a superior commitment to the CIS program with outstanding initiative, leadership and creativity.

Mr. Schmalz, assistant general tax counsel for ExxonMobil Corporation, has served on the CISDR board of directors for 16 years. Prior to 2001, Mr. Schmalz served as chair of CISDR's finance committee assisting with the organization's financial analysis and long-range planning. Serving as board chair since 2001, he is credited with developing the organization's concentration effort, a cost-effective approach that provides for multiple CISDR professional case managers to work on public school campuses with large at-risk student populations. By dedicating additional staff and resources to specific campuses, CISDR is better able to provide academic support and services to hundreds of additional students who would otherwise not receive them. Incorporating this approach, CISDR served more than 6,400 students this past year and is currently in 59 public schools and two school-linked sites in nine school districts.

"We're extremely pleased that Karl has been selected as the CIS Texas Board Member of the Year," says Sandra Chavarria, president and CEO of Communities In Schools Dallas Region. "He has been a tireless advocate for CISDR and at-risk youth across the region and continues to be a tremendous asset as we chart an innovative strategic course that will allow us to meet the needs of thousands of additional schoolchildren through 2010, our 25th anniversary year."

Recognition by of the award winners by the Texas State Senate and the House of Representatives was followed by the CIS Best of Texas Awards luncheon and acknowledgments by Texas Education Agency Commissioner Dr. Shirley Neely in Austin on April 19.

About Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc.

Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc. (CISDR) is an innovative public/private partnership committed to helping at-risk students to stay in school and to achieve success academically and in life. CISDR has been serving students in the Dallas region for the past 22 years, providing daily on-campus academic support, training, prevention, early-intervention and other direct services thousands of at-risk students and their families across the region. During the 2005-2006 academic year, CISDR provided one-on-one case management to 6,484 at-risk students. Of these, 98 percent stayed in school, 90 percent improvement in academics, behavior, and/or attendance and a 90 percent of eligible seniors graduated. To learn more, visit www.cisdallas.org.