



NEIL SHORTHOUSE, PRESIDENT Communities In Schools of Georgia

Neil Shorthouse is the co-founder of the Communities In Schools (CIS) national network. The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to succeed in school and achieve in life. Neil has dedicated more than 40 years to improving educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth through his work with CIS and other youth serving nonprofit organizations. The CIS strategy focuses on connecting community resources to support kids and families, improving graduation rates, academic achievement and job and post-secondary school readiness. Today, 28 states and the District of Columbia provide CIS programs and services through 200 community-based CIS affiliates to more than one million students.

As the president of Communities In Schools of Georgia, which is the largest CIS state office in the national network, Neil ensures that 40 local affiliates who serve more than 140,000 students in 53 schools districts (and more than 300 school and community-based sites) receive leading-edge programs, technical assistance, fundraising support, training, and program evaluation and marketing.

Neil attended public schools in Pittsburgh and Penn Hills Township, earned a golf scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, obtained a Bachelor's degree in political science and was inducted into the Penn Hills Sports Hall of Fame. Neil also received a Masters in religion from the Fuller Theological Seminary.

Realizing the connection between communities and public education, Neil is an active member of the education and business communities. He serves on numerous boards, including the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Chairman Emeritus of the Georgia Charter Schools Association and two charter schools: Ivy Preparatory Academy for Girls and Atlanta Preparatory Academy. Neil was honored in 2006 when the Georgia Association for Alternative Education established the "*Neil Shorthouse Award*", which is given annually to an esteemed person promoting alternative education. Neil consults with a number of organizations and works closely with the Governor's office, legislative leaders and the Georgia Department of Education to improve student achievement and opportunities for the children of Georgia.

Neil is married to Patty Pflum and has lived in the Grant Park section of Atlanta since 1971. They have four children, six grandchildren and are members of St. Luke's Episcopal in downtown Atlanta.