

Education & Workforce Conference

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Jill K. Cox
President and CEO
Communities In Schools of North Carolina (CISNC)

Jill K. Cox is the President and CEO of Communities In Schools of North Carolina (CISNC), where she leads the state's largest integrated student supports network of 17 affiliated organizations serving more than 125,000 students and families across North Carolina. Since assuming the role in 2020, she has guided the organization through significant strategic growth, strengthened collaboration across the statewide network, expanded organizational capacity, and successfully led the organization through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while creating innovative approaches to student support and service delivery.



With more than 30 years of leadership experience spanning the nonprofit, public, and government sectors, Cox is recognized for her expertise in executive leadership, strategic planning, external and community relations, change management, public policy, communications, and organizational development. Throughout her career, she has built a reputation for driving organizational effectiveness, strengthening brands, influencing public policy, cultivating strategic partnerships, and growing both public and private investment to advance mission-driven organizations.

During her tenure at CISNC, Cox has increased operating revenue, strengthened governance across both the statewide board and multiple local advisory boards, expanded the organization's leadership capacity, and elevated Communities In Schools as a trusted voice in education, student support, and youth success. Prior to becoming President and CEO, she served in multiple roles, helping grow the organization's budget while expanding statewide impact.

Before joining CISNC, Cox served as Director of Government Relations and Communications for United Way of North Carolina, where she led statewide advocacy, strategic communications, public awareness campaigns, and collaborative initiatives that earned national recognition. Earlier in her career, she held leadership positions with Triangle United Way, the North Carolina Division of Water Quality, and served as Deputy Press Secretary and Outreach Coordinator for U.S. Congressman Steve Schiff.

A respected statewide leader, Cox currently serves as Co-Chair of North Carolina's Child Fatality Task Force and is a member of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child statewide committee. Nationally, she serves on the Governance and Accreditation Committee and the Network Vision Council for Communities In Schools, helping shape strategy and innovation across the organization's national network. She is also a graduate of Leadership North Carolina, one of the state's premier leadership development programs.

Throughout her career, Cox has remained deeply committed to community leadership, serving on numerous nonprofit boards and volunteer initiatives focused on children, families, education, and community well-being. Her leadership has been recognized with honors including the Champion for Children Award from the North

Carolina Foundation for Public School Children and multiple Gold ADDY Awards for excellence in public service communications.

Cox earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Southwest Texas State University and holds the Duke University Nonprofit Management Certificate. She and her husband are proud parents of two grown children.