

My name is Jenny Espinales and I'm a senior at COPE South. I got pregnant at the age of 15 and had to leave my magnet school William H. Turner Tech High School which I loved. I decided to come to COPE because I knew it would be best for my baby and me.

Before CIS I was struggling with the FCAT and was unsure of college and if I even wanted to attend. People have told me that college was hard and overwhelming. So I started thinking about getting a certificate, not knowing that these certificates wouldn't really help me get a good job in the long run. Once I started participating in CIS

programs everything changed for me. I began to look forward to what the program would offer me. At first I was just signing up for CIS things in hopes to get out of class.



Last year the school signed me up for tutoring with the CIS tutor and was not looking forward to it. But soon I found out my tutor taught reading in an interesting way. She really motivated me to go to tutoring and try hard to pass the FCAT and improve my score.

The Mentor Program has also played an important part in my success. Last year I didn't really get to meet with my mentor that often, but the few times I did we discussed college basics. This year I joined the mentor program wanting to be more involved and looked forward to being paired. I really love meeting with my mentor at State Farm. Even outside the mentor program trips we stay in touch through texting.

Ms. Arroyo and I have a close bond. She does not just tell me what to do but cares about where I am heading in the future. She cares about me looking like a respectful woman and encouraged me to take out my lip piercing. I thought about Ms. Arroyo telling me it wasn't professional and everyday looked in the mirror and saw an unserious and unprofessional person. I looked like someone from the flea market. I knew that people's first impression of me is not the impression I wanted them to have of me. So after months of consideration I finally took it off. And now I see myself as a Professional CSI crime scene investigator.

I am looking forward to college and majoring in criminal justice. I also hope to stay in contact with Ms. Arroyo and my mentor. I really hope that future students take advantage of CIS because it has really made me successful.