

# CC Press Information Sheet

## Brief Summary of CC

Classical Conversations® is a classical education resource used by homeschoolers in all 50 states and 15 foreign countries. CC now has more than 104,000 students enrolled in its tutoring programs, which are provided by almost 2,500 CC communities. CC provides resources, guidance and a community for a Christian home school curriculum using classical education in three developmental stages: grammar, dialectic and rhetoric.

Leigh Bortins started Classical Conversations in 1997. The family-owned company is headquartered in Southern Pines, North Carolina. For more information visit [www.classicalconversations.com](http://www.classicalconversations.com).

## Corporate Mission Statement

“To know God and to make Him known”

## Brief History

Classical Conversations, which now serves more than 93,000 students, began less than 20 years ago with one homeschooling mom’s desire to give her oldest son a good education.

Leigh Bortins was a brand-new mom in 1984, an aerospace engineer, recently graduated from the University of Michigan. Wanting something more than corporate daycare for their young son, she decided to resign her dream job at Boeing to stay home and care for her son. As her son grew older, Leigh found a dearth of homeschool education materials, so she decided to create her own.

In the fall of 1997, Leigh began teaching a once-a-week, classical-model program in Rhetoric in her Winston-Salem, North Carolina, home with 11 high school students. This was the beginning of Classical Conversations’ Challenge I program. Over the next few years, Leigh created programs for elementary and middle school students that focused on the Grammar and Dialectic phases of a classical education.

Emphasizing a Christian classical education conducted in a community, CC grew rapidly over the past 10 years, reaching more than 93,000 students supported by 1,900 individual CC communities in all 50 states and 14 foreign countries.

In addition to constantly revising and enriching its curriculum, CC has also added additional services for homeschooling families, including an online bookstore, practicum training for parents, standardized testing services, test prep classes, an academic transcript service, academic counseling services, college credit through the CC<sup>+</sup> program, and national academic competitions in memorization and math.

## Fast Facts

104,000<sup>+</sup> students

42,000<sup>+</sup> families

2,300 communities

50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico

15 Foreign countries

15,000<sup>+</sup> contracted directors and tutors

530 Parent Practicums planned for this summer

## **Explanation of CC Structure**

Classical Conversations includes both Latin and classical literature, but when CC says “classical,” it is referring to the three stages of classical learning, which guided the great thinkers and leaders of the past, including Aristotle, Plato, Thomas Jefferson and C.S. Lewis.

While CC maintains a corporate staff of employees to support the CC communities, most of the work is done by its directors and tutors, who are independent contractors.

A classical education is ideally suited to children’s natural learning style and intellectual growth. The classical model of education divides the learning process into three stages: grammar, dialectic and rhetoric.

In the grammar stage, children devour facts. We call this stage Foundations, and it is for ages 4-11.

In the dialectic stage, children ask many questions as they sort and evaluate these facts. This is our Essentials program, and it is for children ages 10-13.

In the rhetoric stage, teenagers synthesize their knowledge and apply it. This is our Challenge program, which is designed for young adults 13-18.

## **CC Services**

### **Homeschool Testing Services**

Homeschool Testing Services offers both online and on-site standardized testing each spring. Testing sites are typically CC community sites. HTS also offers standardized testing preparation services.

### **CC Connected**

CC Connected is a subscription-based online resource that provides access to a vast collection of educational resources and a virtual community of leading learners and educators.

### **Homeschool Counselor**

Homeschool Counselor is in its infancy, but the subscription service is growing and already provides exclusive resources such as high-value scholarships, tools for making choices, Great Books college connections and tools for making the best possible presentation to college admissions officers.

### **CC Plus**

Challenge III and IV students may enroll in a unique college credit program partnership with Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida.

### **National Memory Master**

Students memorize thousands of facts from disciplines such as math, science, English grammar, history, Latin and geography and recite them in competition. Competitors are judged on flawless and creative performances. 2016 was the first year for the National Memory Master competition, which was held during the Capstone Cruise, and the winner, Hannah Tully of Vancouver, Washington, won \$10,000.

### **National Number Knockout**

National Number Knockout is a mental math game using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, and exponents. This the fifth year for N2K as a national competition among 16 finalists, which was held during the Capstone Cruise to the Bahamas. Sophia DiPiazza, 13, of Allendale, Michigan, won \$10,000, and her teacher (her mom, Rebekka) also won \$2,000.

### **Challenge Graduation/Capstone Cruise**

2016 was the first year for the national Challenge Graduation and Capstone Cruise, but CC plans to make it an annual event. The May 1-5 cruise aboard Carnival's Victory to Nassau, Bahamas, included the national championship rounds of National Memory Masters and National Number Knockout. Twenty-one graduates and more than 350 members of the CC family enjoyed this year's cruise.

### **Bookstore**

CC operates an online bookstore where CC parents can purchase all the necessary books, curricula and supplies for their students. Many of the books can also be purchased elsewhere. The bookstore shipped 231,827 individual books or curriculum items in 2015. ([www.classicalconversationsbooks.com](http://www.classicalconversationsbooks.com))

### **Deadlines**

July 20	Deadline for registration and tuition payment for the academic year for Foundations and Essentials, and the first semester for Challenge programs.
Jan. 5	Deadline for registration and tuition payment for the second semester of Challenge programs
Feb. 1	Begins open enrollment for following academic year
May 1	Target date for all CC programs to wrap up

### **Costs**

Each CC Community is independent and sets its own tuition, campus and activity fees. Fees are deliberately kept as low as possible while still paying for the expenses of the community, including fair compensation for tutors and directors.

### **Registered trademarks**

The following proper nouns are registered trademarks of CC, and we ask that on first reference they be accompanied by the ® symbol.

**Classical Conversations®**

**Classical Acts & Facts®**

**CC Connected®**

**Trivium Tables®**

**Words Aptly Spoken®**

**PreScripts®**

### **Logo use**

The Press Room Images folder contains an official version of the CC logo. We encourage you to use our logo; our only restriction is that the only change you may make to the logo is its size.

### **Contact us**

For more information or to schedule interviews, please contact:

John Carpenter

Communication Journalist

[jcarpenter@classicalconversations.com](mailto:jcarpenter@classicalconversations.com)

423.618.3753

or

Leah Broman

Communication Team Leader

[lbroman@classicalconversations.com](mailto:lbroman@classicalconversations.com)