



Best Practices Case Study

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National Mentoring Month

By Debi Corrigan, Wichita Public Schools, dcorrigan@usd259.net

President Obama Proclaims January 2011 As National Mentoring Month

President Calls on Americans to Become Mentors to Young People in Their Community

President Barack Obama issued a proclamation designating January 2011 as National Mentoring Month. He stated, "Across our Nation, mentors steer our youth through challenging times and support their journey into adulthood. During National Mentoring Month, we honor these important individuals who unlock the potential and nurture the talent of our country, and we encourage more Americans to reach out and mentor young people in their community."

Research has shown that volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence as well as boosting academic achievement. Mentors help to build young people's character and confidence, expand their universe, and help them navigate a path to success.

As a highlight of National Mentoring Month 2011, **Thank Your Mentor Day** will be celebrated on January 25th. On that day, many Americans will reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them and had a lasting impact on their lives. Thank Your Mentor Day promotes three ways to honor your mentor: (1) contact your mentor directly to express your appreciation; (2) pass on what you received by becoming a mentor to a young person in your community; and (3) write a tribute to your mentor for posting on WhoMentoredYou.org.

Each year since its launch in 2002, National Mentoring Month has enjoyed the strong support of the President and the United States Congress. Other prominent individuals who have participated in the campaign include: Maya Angelou, former President Bill Clinton, Clint Eastwood, Senator John McCain, Quincy Jones, Cal Ripken, Jr., Bill Russell, and Usher.

Mentoring

Mentoring is a consistent, structured, stable *relationship between youth and a caring role model(s)* that involves regular, ongoing, and ideally face-to-face meetings and is focused on developing the character, capabilities and confidence of the young person(s).

There are different ways to mentor. Mentoring takes many different forms and shapes. There are several different ways a volunteer can mentor.

- **One-to-One:** traditional, one adult and one youth
- **Team Mentoring:** a group of adults work together to mentor youth
- **Group Mentoring:** one adult works with groups of youth
- **Peer Mentoring:** caring youth mentor other youth
- **E-Mentoring:** mentoring through email via the Internet

There are different places to mentor. Mentoring can take place in a variety of different settings. Below is an overview of each of the main types.

- **Community-Based:** Engage in more social activities; more effective at affecting social outcomes; sponsored by community organization.
- **School-Based:** Engage in more academic activities; more effective at affecting school outcomes; typically sponsored by schools.
- **Faith-Based:** Faith-based theme in activities; focus on affecting social and spiritual outcomes; typically sponsored by faith organization.
- **Workplace-Based:** Engage in more academic oriented activities; focus on affecting academic outcomes; sponsored by workplace and nonprofit partner.

Do you have ideas and activities to share? Please send them on the Kansas Partners in Education list serve by entering the following e-mail address in the "TO" line of an e-mail message: kspartners@listserve.com. Or send your information to info@kspartners.org and we will help you with a case study.

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**Kansas Partners in
Education**

P.O. Box 48052

Wichita KS 67201-8052

info@kspartners.org