Aspire Mentoring Corps

The Aspire Mentoring Corps is an innovative public-private partnership between MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) with support from AT&T. The Aspire Mentoring Corps was announced in July of 2014 with President Obama at an event to celebrate key commitments to the My Brother’s Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. The My Brother’s Keeper Task Force identified quality mentoring as a critical support for young people and recommended the AmeriCorps program be further leveraged to deliver on this promise.

MENTOR and CNCS are responding to the President’s call to action by launching the Aspire Mentoring Corps with support from AT&T. Through this program, VISTA members will serve at MENTOR’s affiliate Mentoring Partnerships [Kansas Mentors] throughout the country and focus on two key areas: increase private sector engagement in mentoring and expand the capacity of mentoring programs.

The AmeriCorps VISTA member will receive training and will have the opportunity to learn from senior professionals in the mentoring field to execute their work. They will be trained in quality mentoring program practices, principles of positive youth development, and the delivery of trainings. The AmeriCorps VISTA member will learn strategies for building strong relationships across sectors and conducting corporate outreach. Check out a full position description here.

To Apply:

Please submit a resume and thoughtful cover letter to vista@mentoring.org. Make sure to include what position you are applying for in the subject of the email, and include the location of the service [Kansas] in the body of the email. Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled. Members will be selected by May 25, 2015. Early applications are encouraged. Learn more on the KM website, www.KansasMentors.org or by visiting MENTOR’s website, www.mentoring.org.
Mentorship

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership is proud to facilitate the Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series (CMWS) in partnership with the CMWS planning team. Through ongoing planning and evaluation of the latest developments in the field, the team delivers a webinar each month focused on strengthening mentoring practice, sharing new resources, and helping the field put research into practice. Kansas Mentors has joined the CMWS planning team this year—so help us represent our state well by participating in these FREE monthly webinars!

Webinars are help monthly on the 3rd Thursday from 12:00-1:15 CST.

Webinars are FREE and online. Links to register for the upcoming webinar, with full descriptions and panelist information, are posted in the month leading up to the webinar. Check back periodically as plans for each month are finalized!

Next Live Webinar: April 16, 2015—Peer Mentoring: A Discussion with Experienced Practitioners, 12-1:15PM (moderated by KM Director)

While peer mentoring is not a relatively new practice, in the last decade we have learned more about how to run effective peer mentoring programs. When peer mentoring programs commit to developing a structured, relationship-focused program model, the positive effects on both the mentor and the mentee are vast. In this webinar, we will be joined by Margo Ross, Psy.D., the Senior Director of Development at the Center for Supportive Schools, who will be discussing their Peer Group Connection (PGC) program and the theoretical basis for why they structured the program the way they did. Tammy Potts, District Coordinator for Basehor-Linwood Mentors and CareCats, will join the conversation highlighting their CareCats peer mentoring program model, and providing insight about the importance of incorporating best practices into the peer mentoring model. Join this webinar for a dialogue about how mentoring professionals can, “tap into schools’ most underutilize resources—students—and enlist them in strengthening the educational offerings of the school, while simultaneously advancing their own learning, growth and development” (PGC). Come prepared with your questions for our impressive panelists!

Register here!!!

Partner Spotlight—Compeer Mentoring

Congratulations on 30-years of service!

A special note of congratulations from all of us at Kansas Mentors and the Kansas Volunteer Commission, to the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas on celebrating Compeer Mentoring and 30 years of service.

“Compeer is truly one of the outstanding mental health programs of the last three decades. Perhaps the biggest benefit of the Compeer program is the degree to which it has contributed to the decreased stigma of the mentally ill.” —Dr. John McIntyre, Vice President Unity Behavioral Health and Past President of the American Psychiatric Association

The 4th Annual Colorado Mentoring Symposium

Pre-Conference: April 30, 2015
Poverty Simulation
Participants assume the role of families in poverty to gain a greater understanding of what life would be like below the poverty line. Cost is $15 per person. RSVP here.

Conference Date: May 1, 2015
TIM Talks—“ted talk” style presentations: The Colorado Mentoring Partnership is thrilled to conclude this year’s conference with a twist but incorporating Today In Mentoring (TIM) Talks! Four innovative presenters will give short, motivational presentations for all symposium participants with a “ted talk” style environment. Door prizes and a resource fair will additionally be provided.

New breakout session topics for staff in all departments and levels:

- Mentor Recruitment
- Staff Recruitment & Retention
- Trauma and Adolescence
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Social Media
- Group Mentoring
- Peer Mentoring
- LGBT 101
- Men & Mentoring
- Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Evaluation
- Measuring Impact
- And more...

Check out the website for more information and to register!
Gold Star Program
Updates

The Gold Star process has been formalized in an effort to offer applicants increased technical assistance throughout the process. Please find below our new and improved Gold Star process.

Steps to Attaining Gold Star:

1. Contact KM Director to discuss interest and develop MOU
2. Fill out Gold Star Registration Form
3. Fill out the Benchmarks Checklist that matches your mentoring program model
4. Include documentation for each Benchmark in an organized manner and submit to KM
5. KM Director and/or peer review committee will review the application
6. Applicant will participate in a clarification questions phase
7. Upon review of the clarification questions, KM Director will write a Recommendations & Review form
8. Program will either be approved for Gold Star or given a list of areas for improvement

Please email mentor@ksde.org to see how we can work together to get you qualified!

National Mentoring Resource Center

The National Mentoring Resource Center is comprised of three components: That National Mentoring Resource Center Research Board; the resource center website; and no-cost specialized technical assistance for mentoring programs. The website features resources for the youth mentoring field, including a “What Works in Mentoring” section; targeted program and training materials; and the opportunity to request technical assistance. The resources and technical assistance are in alignment with the national standards for quality, evidence-based mentoring, The Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™. The goal of the National Mentoring Resource Center is to more fully incorporate evidence-based practices with training and technical assistance to improve the quality and effectiveness of youth mentoring programs across the nation. Additional information is available at: www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org.

Kansas Mentors will serve as a technical assistance provider to mentoring programs that apply for and are approved to receive this no-cost benefit. Examples of potential technical assistance that might be requested include: reviews of existing mentoring training materials; guidance and consultation on mentor recruitment plans and strategies; analysis of mentor screening processes; and analysis of match support processes and consultation on strategies for improvement.

OJJDP selected MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership to establish the Center through a competitive application process. For 25 years, MENTOR had developed and distributed research, standards, including The Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™, tools and trainings to ensure mentoring is safe and effective. MENTOR has also built a network of affiliate Mentoring Partnerships, such as KM, to scale its distribution, provide on-the-ground consulting to mentoring programs and serve as key informants in the organization’s national strategy.

Nationwide Mentor Referral System

Don’t Miss Out on Your Listing in the Nationwide Mentor Referral System

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, our national organization, is getting ready to launch a new, more dynamic version of its free database and referral service that helps quality youth mentoring programs across the US recruit more local volunteers and increase visibility through national public awareness campaigns.

The former Volunteer Referral Service (VRS) will re-launch as the Mentoring Connector this spring. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to be a part of this critical resource that will directly connect you to national public awareness campaigns and help recruit mentors!

Each month, thousands of prospective mentors across the US search MENTOR’s database of mentoring opportunities through www.mentoring.org and through MENTOR’s national partner sites, including the White House’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative site, NBA Cares, National CARES Mentoring, serve.gov, and many more.

If you want volunteers to be able to find your program among the zip code search results please follow the instructions below to submit your program listing to the Mentoring Connector:

- Go to https://connect.mentoring.org/admin
- Click the “Add a New Program” button below the login fields (do not enter your email address or a password)
- Enter requested info on your mentoring program. Remember that what you enter in the Program Description and Mentor Description fields will be visible to anyone searching for programs through a system, so use clear and informative language.
- Click “Submit” when finished.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MENTOR at connector@mentoring.org.