Coach Snyder Receives Excellence in Mentoring Award

In a special ceremony held in Washington, DC during the National Mentoring Summit, Kansas State University Football Coach Bill Snyder was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Mentoring Award by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, in recognition for his longstanding commitment to meeting the mentoring needs of young people in Kansas.

Coach Snyder became head football coach at Kansas State University in 1989 and retired briefly in the 2005 season, returning in 2009. During his retirement, he spent three years establishing Kansas Mentors, dedicated to connecting existing mentoring programs with one another and serving as a resource center for communities wishing to start a program. Through his steadfast support, Coach Snyder helped to increase funds in the mentoring sector, raise awareness about the importance of mentoring and elevate the cause. Coach Snyder, along with Coach Tom Osborne, of the University of Nebraska, developed the Coaches’ Challenge, a recruitment campaign which has recruited tens of thousands of adults to mentor and this year, has first-time participation form the entire Big 12 Conference.

“If you are involved with coaching, you are involved with mentoring. And that mentoring happens both on and off the football field,” said Snyder. “I still have mentors. Probably the most significant thing that anyone can do in our lives is surround ourselves with people who care, and people who want to make our lives better. And young people don’t always know how to reach out and find those people. That is why the role of a mentoring program is so important.”

“It was truly an honor to recognize Coach Snyder for his years of support in the mentoring movement of Kansas. Coach is a visionary, a man of character, and an inspiration. Having the opportunity to showcase his passion for the cause, in a national capacity, was a remarkable experience,” said Cheri Faunce, Director of Kansas Mentors.

Coach Snyder was among five leaders presented with a 2015 Excellence in Mentoring Award. These awards honor individuals who have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to meeting the mentoring needs of young people at the national, state or local level.

Help us congratulate Coach Snyder by submitting your letter of gratitude, hand-written note/card, and/or mentor/mentee success stories to KM today!!!
Global Youth Service Day Mini-Grant

Each year, millions of children and youth around the world work together to address the world’s most critical issues and change their communities on Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). GYSD is the only day of service focused on mobilizing and training youth as leaders who identify and address community needs through service and service-learning and educate the public around the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders. The Kansas Volunteer Commission is looking for volunteer projects taking place during GYSD, April 17-19, 2015 that are inspired and led by youth. The KVC will make available up to $7,500 in mini-grant funds to support GYSD projects. The Commission expects to award grants of approximately $750. Requests should not exceed $750. Visit the KVC website to learn more today!!!

2014 Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series

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: February 19, 2015—Using Research to Inform Your Mentoring Program, 12-1:15PM

Is your mentoring program “research-based”? Sounds like an easy question, but it can be a bit more complicated to answer than many programs think. Incorporating research into a mentoring program’s practices is a constant balance act for many practitioners between factors such as day-to-day workload, the availability of relevant research, and questions about when and how to apply research and measure the impact. Hear from members of the Research Board of the National Mentoring Resource Center, and other panelists to explore how mentoring professionals can effectively apply research to their work. Come with your research questions and learn how to improve the research-to-practice process within the mentoring field!

Register here!!!

Partner Spotlight—Basehor Linwood Care Cats

In Leavenworth County Schools, teachers are leaning voices of experience. A unique program offers high school students academic credit for spending time in elementary school classrooms.

Organizers of the Care Cats mentoring program with Basehor Linwood Public Schools love to hear their students echo that mission.

Since 1999, Care Cats has taken students from the local high school and placed them as classroom mentors in the district’s elementary schools.

Unlike similar programs at other school districts, Care Cats offers its student mentors credit toward their high school diplomas while they provide a classroom presence meant to curb misbehavior and bullying.

This relationship might not exist if not for Tammy Potts. She stated the program 16-years ago. Since then, she’s seen over 2,400 high school students pass through the program.

Congratulations on the continued success!!! Check out the whole story here.
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!

Mayor’s Day of Recognition for National Service

Wendy Spencer, CEO for the Corporation for National and Community Service, has announced the third annual Mayor’s Day of Recognition of National Service, on April 7, 2015.

In 2014, in Kansas and Missouri alone, 99 Mayors participated in this special day of recognition through proclamation signing ceremonies or hosting locally based recognition events. In planning for 2015, we are setting higher goals for outreach and participation form Mayors and public officials on this day. Our goal for 2015’s Mayor’s Day of Recognition is to increase the number of proclamation signings and special events held in Kansas and Missouri cities by a minimum of 30%. That’s 30% more Mayors who will sign up on our website to publicly recognize the service of Senior Corps and AmeriCorps members in their communities. Check it out, by clicking here.

Want to learn how your program can participate in this event? Contact KM today for more information.

National Mentoring Summit Updates

Convened by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, the National Mentoring Summit took place on January 28-30, 2015 and boasted an attendance of over 1,000 sponsors, presenters, speakers and attendees traveling from across the United States and around the world to share in a dialogue focused on expanding the mentoring effect.

2015 National Mentoring Summit By the Numbers: Approximately 900 attendees, nearly 400 Capitol Hill Day advocates, 46 states and nine countries represented, 65 workshops, 113 workshop presenters, 1.7 million social media impressions!!!

The National Mentoring Summit serves as a forum for sharing new resources and innovative research that can be leveraged to expand the mentoring effect. At this year’s event, the following resources were released:
- The Business Case for Private-Sector Engagement in Quality Youth Mentoring
- Investments in Mentoring Issue Briefs
- OJJDP and MENTOR Launch National Mentoring Resource Center
- Aspire Mentoring Corps to Launch in 6 Markets—including Kansas!!

A special thank you to Debi Corrigan, Wichita Public Schools, USD 259 and Donnovan Karber, Christian Association of Youth Mentoring (pictured right) for participating in this year’s Capitol Hill Day event. We had a great morning speaking with both Senator Roberts’ (Melissa Fett, pictured right) and Senator Moran’s (Brian Perkins, pictured right) legislative aides who were/are BOTH mentors!!

Check out photographs from the 2015 Excellence in Mentoring Awards ceremony featuring Coach Bill Snyder as an honoree, at the Library of Congress from Peter Cutts Photography. You can also view the opening plenary session video on The Mentoring Effect.

Save the Date for 2016: January 27-29, 2016!!!!