2014 Coaches’ Challenge Results

After four, action-packed quarters, the Coaches’ Challenge ends with a final score of 10,285 individuals who answered the challenge to sign up to be volunteer mentors! The Challenge started in August and this year an additional 1,000 fans stepped up compared to last year’s total. With the Big 12 Conference endorsement and all of the conference football coaches participating, along with football coaches from colleges and high schools across the country, the campaign gained new fans, engagement and exposure this year!

The Coaches’ Challenge began in 2008 as a friendly competition between Coach Tom Osborne at the University of Nebraska and Coach Bill Snyder at Kansas State University with the goal of rallying new volunteers for mentoring programs in their communities and states. We thank the Big 12 Conference, other states who participate in the Coaches’ Challenge and the mentoring programs throughout Kansas who really push hard to make a difference in the lives of youth, every day.

As a way to bridge the mentoring gap, and in keeping with the spirit of the annual Coaches’ Challenge Kansas and Iowa issued a friendly wager to see which state could recruit the most new mentors during the college football season. The two states created a scoreboard, similar to the national scoreboard, and disseminated updates to the field every quarter during the Coaches’ Challenge. Kansas beat Iowa during this year’s first mini-challenge by 778 mentors!!! Congratulations Team Kansas!!

45,000+ Since the inception of the Coaches’ Challenge in 2008, over 45,000 people, in seven participating states, have taken the Challenge to become a mentor.

28,550 28,550 new mentors have been recruited during the annual Coaches’ Challenge in Kansas since its inception in 2008.

Funding Opportunities
Kansas Volunteer Commission
In an effort to support local organizations leveraging volunteers to meet community needs, the KVC is hosting a series of mini-grant competitions during 2015. The 2015 Mini-Grant Series, with important dates, is now posted on the website.

AmeriCorps Kansas
Could your program benefit from AmeriCorps members who work to meet the vital needs of our communities through service? Notice of Intent to Apply is due on January 9, 2015. Check it out!

Kansas State University Office of Research & Sponsored Projects
Check out this website for a weekly updated listing of funding opportunities, federal and private sources of funding, and more.

Kansas Health Foundation
Check out this website to see if your program fits within any of these multiple funding opportunities.

Community Foundations
List of community foundations and contact information.
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 held 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: January 15, 2015—Leveraging Mentoring to Support Black Male Achievement, 12-1:15PM

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership has been partnering with Open Society Foundations’ Campaign for Black Male Achievement to host convening's throughout the country to inform the development of a training curriculum that will prepare mentors to better work with young black men and boys. Join this webinar to hear from Shawn Dove, manager of the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, as well as participants in these local convening's and representatives from MENTOR, for a conversation exploring how the mentoring field can support black male achievement.

Register here!!!

2015 Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative Grantees Announced

The Kansas Volunteer Commission (KVC) is pleased to announce nearly $100,000 in funding to four Kansas mentoring organizations through the 2015 Kansas Science, Technology, Engineering, Match (STEM) Mentoring Initiative grant competition.

The Kansas STEM Mentoring grant initiative is part of the Volunteer Generation Fund, a grant awarded to the KVC from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The KVC understands that mentoring is a powerful way to transform a student’s vision of themselves. The Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative will foster a consistent approach to STEM education and allow for organic development of STEM programs matching local strengths, challenges, and resources.

Congratulations 2015 grantees:
- Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
- Reno County Communities That Care
- Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters
- United Way of Franklin County, Association

Did you know that Kansas is ranked 4th in the Nation for Volunteerism? 36.1% of Kansas residents are volunteering in their community—or one out of every three Kansans. Volunteers provide a powerful economic and social benefit to communities across the state with 769,200 Kansans serving more than 82 million hours!!

We want to hear your story!!

The Kansas Volunteer Commission has created a database to collect stories that illustrate the impact of volunteerism in our state. Your story can help inspire others to get involved, which in turn, benefits the needs of Kansas communities. We have a goal to collect 105 stories—or one story for every county in Kansas. Please consider sharing your story by filling out the simple form found at www.KanServe.org or by clicking on the “Share YOUR Story of Service” button above.

Help Kansas Mentors spread the word about the importance of mentoring in the state by sharing stories about the good your mentors are doing, the impact they are making on the youth your program serves, and more!!!

If you have photographs that you can submit with your story, even better!!

On behalf of the KVC, thank you for everything that you are doing for your community.
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 Month (NMM)

History

Created in 2002 by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, National Mentoring Month (NMM) focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits—can work together to increase the number of mentors to assure positive outcomes for our young people.

NMM celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Its goals are to:

1. Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms.
2. Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people.
3. Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

Each year since its launch, NMM has enjoyed the strong support of the U.S. President and members of Congress. Additional prominent individuals who have participated in the campaign include: Maya Angelou, former President Bill Clinton, Clint Eastwood, Senator John McCain, Quincy Jones, General Colin L. Powell, Cal Ripken, Jr., Bill Russell and Usher.

Important Dates

January 15, 2015—Thank Your Mentor Day
On this day, may Americans will reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them, and had a lasting, positive impact on their lives. Visit the Who Mentored You? website to spotlight the important mentor in your life!

January 19, 2015—Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
This is an ideal opportunity to highlight the importance of mentoring. Celebrate Dr. King’s legacy by honoring mentors in your community, recruiting new mentors, providing training and/or encouraging mentor pairs to serve together. Go to www.mlkday.gov for more information.

Kansas Mentoring Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony

Governor Brownback signed a Proclamation declaring January, “Kansas Mentoring Month” in honor of National Mentoring Month. Mentors and mentees from Women Empowerment, Inc. and Topeka Youth Project joined KVC and KM staff for the Proclamation signing ceremony.

Below is an excerpt from the Proclamation:

“...I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim January of 2015 as Kansas Mentoring Month in Kansas and call upon the people of Kansas to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in their communities, and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.”

A special thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the ceremony.