A monthly newsletter that aims to strengthen the connectivity of the statewide youth mentoring network and to educate programs on the resources and technical assistance available through Mentor Kansas.

FROM MENTOR KANSAS TO YOU

happy holidays

THE GIFT OF MENTORING WILL MAKE A LASTING IMPACT FOR YOUTH IN NEED FAR BEYOND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.
Thank you for joining us as we "Celebrate All Abilities" in December and beyond. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships can have powerful, positive effects on youth in a variety of ways. By elevating stories about how mentoring can benefit all young people, regardless of ability, and adding your voice in support, you can help prevent those youth who are most at-risk of becoming disconnected from school, work, and their community. There is important work being done all across our state and nation to support young people with unique abilities. Mentor Kansas is dedicated to empowering young people with different abilities to reach their full potential by ensuring they have access to inclusive and transformative mentoring programs and youth development opportunities. We hope that others across Kansas will also utilize the power of mentoring and supportive relationships to foster growth and development. When we unite together, embrace diversity, and commit to becoming more inclusive, we help young people living with disabilities achieve their personal, educational and career goals. By opening our doors and hearts to welcome people of all abilities, identities, and backgrounds, we will empower individuals, further our communities, and create a better world and Kansas for us all.
What is quality mentoring?

Mentoring is more than just helping as many kids as possible - it is also about providing high-quality, mentoring experiences, because poor mentoring relationships can do more harm than good. To guide these quality experiences, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership developed the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™, which details research-informed and practitioner-approved standards for creating and sustaining quality youth mentoring programs and facilitating impactful mentoring relationships.

What is the National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS)?

The National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS) is an online tool built within the Mentoring Connector and contains a 92 question self-assessment that is aligned to the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™. During the self-assessment, programs rate their current practice to identify areas of strength and improvement. NQMS is not a "pass" or "fail" assessment of programs, but instead, is a continuous innovation and improvement process to align program practices with evolving quality mentoring standards. Completing the NQMS self-assessment is part of the new application process for becoming a Mentor Kansas Gold Star Partner. More information about the implementation of NQMS and the Mentor Kansas Gold Star Partner program will be coming in 2019.

How does participating in NQMS benefit my program?

- Access to the online tool that will support the in-depth assessment of your program’s practices, operations and management to identify strengths and areas for continuous innovation and improvement
- Customized training and technical assistance, based on your assessment results
- Stronger connection with resources available through Mentor Kansas
- Allows your program to be Mentor Kansas Gold Star Partner eligible

We have exciting news!
KHF awards nearly $2 million to improve health in Kansas...

WICHITA, Kan. - Recently, the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) awarded nearly $2 million to 86 Kansas organizations for health-improvement projects and organizational capacity building. Through the foundation's Impact and Capacity Grants (ICG)...

Read more
kansashealth.org

We are so happy to announce that we have received a generous amount of grant funding through the Kansas Health Foundation! For the next two years, we will be working with the Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute, Center for Organizational Development and Collaboration to develop and build our training and support offered to the mentoring network. We are so excited to work on improving our outreach and communications in order to encourage more participation in the training, resources, and supports that we have available at Mentor Kansas as well as inspire collaboration within the statewide mentoring network. By building the capacity of Mentor Kansas, we will improve the quality and quantity of mentoring program relationships available to at-risk youth in Kansas.

The Kansas Health Foundation is a philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, visit www.kansashealth.org.

January is National Mentoring Month
National Mentoring Month (NMM) is the largest-scale mentoring campaign nationwide, culminating each year with the National Mentoring Summit in Washington, D.C. We know that mentoring is a critical component in young people’s lives, helping them make the decisions and connections that lead to opportunity. This year will reflect on the incredible growth of the mentoring movement, recognize the real life mentoring relationships that form and thrive each day, and offer opportunities to thank the mentors who inspired us. National Mentoring Month not only offers us a chance to celebrate the mentoring relationships essential to creating sustainable futures for our youth, but also provides a chance for all of us to recognize those who devote their energy to recruiting, training, and matching the mentors our young people require. Thank you for elevating the mentoring movement through your work each day to ensure every young person has a caring adult in their life.

The 2019 National Mentoring Month campaign toolkit provides guidance on the most impactful ways you can lend your voice to the mentoring movement!

Materials include:
- Custom graphics for social media
- Sample social media language
- Calendar of campaign activation days
- Template press materials and engagement guides

Campaign hashtags for social media: #MentorIRL and #MentoringMonth

DOWNLOAD THE 2019 TOOLKIT

Calendar of National Mentoring Month Campaign Dates
January 4, 2019 – I Am a Mentor Day
- A day for volunteer mentors to celebrate their role and reflect on the ways mentees have enhanced their world.

January 17, 2019 - International Mentoring Day
- A day of international conversations on social media where photos, video, and powerful mentoring stories messages are shared.

January 21, 2019 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
- A day to share in the inspirational words of Dr. MLK, Jr. and elevate the spirit of service through volunteerism.

January 31, 2019 - #ThankYourMentor Day
- This day concludes the #ThankYourMentor campaign! Anyone with real life mentoring experiences can thank those who helped them on their path to adulthood and beyond.

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series
We encourage you to take advantage of the **FREE Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series (CMWS)** resource to strengthen your program’s services to youth! **Webinars are held monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 12:00-1:15 Central Time.** 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 out what is coming up!

**NEXT LIVE WEBINAR: Faith-Based Mentoring - Engaging with Your Community**

Faith-based mentoring offers an opportunity for church ministries, nonprofits, and other religious entities to engage and build relationships with members of their community. This particular form of mentoring can raise questions about unsolicited evangelism particularly among non-religious stakeholders and those of different faiths, sustainability, and general operational questions. During this webinar we will hear from leaders in the faith-based mentoring sphere as they share methods and considerations for recruiting, screening and training staff and volunteers. They will also speak about bridging the gap between secular and faith-based organizations, and how to sustain as an organization. We will hear from a faith-based mentoring program about how they engage young people and their families, as well as the community. Attendees will learn more about how they have built relationships with external stakeholders that have led to operating a sustainable program with non-volunteer employees.

This webinar will be equally as beneficial for secular programs, schools, and other businesses as they learn how to engage potential mentors and other volunteers who come from ministries of faith.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**UPCOMING WEBINARS (always held from 12:00-1:15 PM Central Time):**
- January 17, 2019 - Using Volunteers in a Small Mentoring Program
- February 21, 2019 - Group Mentoring
- March 21, 2019 - Mentoring Rural Youth

[CHECK OUT ARCHIVED WEBINARS HERE](#)

Volunteer Manager Support Mini-Grant
The Kansas Volunteer Commission (KVC) is excited to offer up to $1,500 per organization for applicants to provide training directly to volunteers and/or to the staff supporting volunteers. Grant activities must take place between March 1, 2019 - July 31, 2019. There is a dollar-for-dollar match requirement.

Funds may be used to hire speakers, purchase training supplies, secure event space, attend professional training or conferences, print materials, or other training-related costs. Possible project ideas include, but are not limited to:

**Training For Volunteers**
- Organize [Adult or Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) training
- Organize [Diversity and Inclusion](#) training
- Organize [First Aid and/or CPR](#) training
- Organize [Kansas Leadership Center](#) training
- Organize [Strengths Finder](#) training

**Training For Volunteer Managers**
- Earn the [Certification in Volunteer Administration (CVA)](#)
- Attend the [National Conference on Service and Volunteerism](#)
- Attend the [Kansas Conference on Volunteerism](#)
- Attend Nonprofit Management Institute at [Nonprofit Connect](#)

The application and guidelines are available at [www.kanserve.org](http://www.kanserve.org). For
2019 Conference on Volunteerism

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Kansas Volunteer Commission and Mentor Kansas are seeking proposals for 75-minute and 105-minute workshops at the 2019 Kansas Conference on Volunteerism to be held at the Wichita State University Rhatigan Student Center in Wichita on July 25 – 26, 2019. Proposals are due by January 25, 2019.

The theme for the conference is “Building Civic Culture,” or creating a culture where every person is inspired to take action to change themselves and Kansas.

VIEW GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring
Mentoring is more than just helping as many kids as possible – it is also about providing high-quality, safe mentoring experiences, because poor mentoring relationships can do more harm than good. To guide these quality experiences, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership developed the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™*, which details research-informed and practitioner-approved standards for creating and sustaining quality youth mentoring programs and facilitating impactful mentoring relationships.

The six evidence-based Standards (Recruitment, Screening, Training, Matching and Initiating, Monitoring and Support, and Closure) are intended to be applicable across almost every type of youth mentoring program. Each Standard includes Benchmarks to ensure the safety and effectiveness of mentoring relationships, as well as Enhancements that may be promising, innovative and useful for programs. Additionally, a Program Planning and Management section offers recommendations for designing, building, and strengthening mentoring programs and services.

The new Mentor Kansas Gold Star Partner program will align with the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™*. More information about the implementation of the Mentor Kansas Gold Star Partner program will be coming in January 2019.

- Download the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring*
- Download the Elements [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)](https://www.mentorgk.org/faq)
- Download the Elements [checklist for mentoring programs](https://www.mentorgk.org/checklist)

To request a hard copy of these materials to be mailed to you or your mentoring program, email [mentor@ksde.org](mailto:mentor@ksde.org).

#MentorIRL: We want to hear from you!
Stories have power. #MentorIRL focuses on the real life benefits of mentoring for young people, as well as the personal, life-changing stories shared by mentors and mentees themselves that provide points of connection and remind us of the power of relationships. Your mentoring story can inspire others to mentor in real life! Mentor Kansas is always collecting stories from mentors, mentees, programs and anyone willing to elevate their voice and personal connection to mentoring. If you have mentoring stories and/or photos that you would like to share with the mentoring program network in Kansas, please forward your content to Mentor Kansas at mentor@ksde.org. We would love to share these in future editions of the Mentor Kansas Connection as well as on our social media pages, @MentorKansas!

You can also join the #ThankYourMentor campaign and show your appreciation for someone whose guidance you value! Simply take a picture or video with a message about your mentor and then share with @MentorKansas on social media using hashtag #ThankYourMentor.

We know that mentors are the best recruiters, and their stories can inspire others to step up and join the movement. Will you share your story and encourage others to do the same?

Stay tuned for more exciting updates regarding the Mentor Kansas Gold Star Program!

For more information, visit us at www.MentorKansas.org

Contact Us:
Mentor Kansas
Email: mentor@ksde.org
Phone: (785) 368-6211

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!