2014 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism

The Kansas Volunteer Commission along with Kansas Mentors is pleased to announce the third annual 2014 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism, to be hosted in Wichita, KS on September 25 & 26, 2014 at Century II Conference Center! This conference is the one time during the year when Kansas non-profit professionals, mentor leaders, volunteer leaders/managers, AmeriCorps programs and members, VISTA programs and members and Senior Corps programs gather together to learn and share effective practices, improve professional and personal skills and organizational strategies, discover opportunities and resources, network, be inspired and challenged to continue to do great work throughout Kansas.

**Early Bird Registration**—$50
May 1—July 31, 2014

**Regular Registration**—$75
August 1—September 9, 2014

**Call for Presenters**—Due June 30, 2014
We are seeking a diversity of proposals that will be informative and relevant, encourage opportunities for learner engagement and/or demonstrate application to the work of participants. Ultimately, our goal is to select proposals that:

- Contain new and innovative ideas
- Stimulate and provoke discussion
- Offer practical information and tools that participants can use immediately

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Kansas Mentors Background Checks Grants**
Due Date: August 31, 2014
Accepted on a revolving basis—first come, first serve.

**Kansas Volunteer Commission**

**Kansas Mentors Recruitment & Retention Mini-Grant**
In the spirit of the Coaches’ Challenge, Kansas Mentors is seeking projects taking place during the Challenge that focus on the recruitment and/or retention of mentors. Applications due July 18, 2014.

**AmeriCorps Kansas**
Could your program benefit from AmeriCorps members who work to meet the vital needs of our communities through service? Competition closed, but now is a good time to start looking into AmeriCorps as an option for your program.

**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.

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**Partners in excellence**
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!

The network of twenty-six mentoring partnerships works to strengthen the mentoring field by offering trainings to practitioners, promoting quality standards for mentoring programs, and increasing the local mentoring resources. This webinar series offers a free, accessible platform for Mentoring Partnerships and other technical assistance providers to share their expertise with the field.

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: June 20, 2014—Positive Youth Development and Mentoring: Putting Assets Into Practice, 12-1:15PM

Register here!!!

Oregon Mentors: Evaluation Instrument Toolkit

The Oregon Mentors Evaluation Instrument Toolkit is a collection of downloadable evaluation instruments, surveys, scales and questionnaires designed to provide youth mentoring programs with increased access to reliable evaluation tools. It was created in collaboration with the National Mentoring Center at Education Northwest. This instrument should help your program better capture the outcomes of the valuable youth mentoring work you do!

All of the resources listed in the Instrument Toolkit are free to access, with many being completely in the public domain and free to use as mentoring programs see fit. Oregon Mentors and Education Northwest hand-picked over 60 individual instruments, focusing on those that were thought to be the most useful to youth mentoring programs.

You can access this toolkit by visiting Oregon Mentors’ website: [http://oregonmentors.org/library/evaluationtools/](http://oregonmentors.org/library/evaluationtools/).

Did you know that Kansas is ranked 4th in the Nation for Volunteerism? 36.4% 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 807,000 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!

Introducing DCF’s Independent Living Coordinator

Bubba Dowling is the newly hired Independent Living (IL) Outreach Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF). Bubba’s job is to conduct outreach across the state to social service programs, group homes, homeless shelters, faith-based organizations, and community organizations that might have contact with youth aging out of care. The purpose is to increase public awareness about the IL program and services available for eligible youth.

“My hope is to convey the youth’s needs and help the young adults connect with organizations within their communities that will come alongside them with encouragement and support on their paths to independence.”

To learn more about the IL program or to have Bubba come and present to you and/or your organization, please contact him at Bubba.Dowling@dcf.ks.gov or by phone 785-296-4712.

20,000

The number of youth who are currently waiting for a mentor in Kansas.

Assessment period: August 1, 2012–July 31, 2013

60,000

The number of youth who had a mentor during the assessment period.

905,250

The number of hours mentors dedicated to their mentees during the assessment period!!!

KM Recruitment & Retention Mini-Grant

There are over 20,000 youth in Kansas, on waiting lists, in need of a caring and reliable adult mentor. In reflection of that, in 2008, Coach Bill Snyder (Kansas State University) and Coach Tom Osborne (University of Nebraska) initiated the annual Coaches’ Challenge, with the goal of rallying new volunteers for mentoring programs. During the last six years, the popularity of the Coaches’ Challenge has grown, with the expansion into additional states and conferences. In the spirit of the annual Coaches’ Challenge, Kansas Mentors is seeking projects taking place during the Challenge that focus on the recruitment and/or retention of mentors. Specifically the efforts should focus on:

1.) Outreach efforts to recruit more Kansans to meet the state’s shortage of mentors and/or;
2.) Innovative strategies and trainings to retain existing mentors and to ensure young Kansans are receiving high quality mentoring services.

Grant activities should take place during the Coaches’ Challenge:

Grant Deadline: July 18

August 1, 2014—November 30, 2014

Who May Apply?

This is a competitive, reimbursement grant application process. Organizations that are currently engaged in youth mentoring activities that meet the definition of mentoring (as stated on KM’s website) and are registered as an Affiliate Program with Kansas Mentors prior to July 18, 2014 are invited to submit applications.

Kansas Mentors expects to award up to $10,000 in one-time grants. Funds may not be used to engage in political activities. Applicants may request up to $500 in funding.

Grant Materials:
Application Guidelines
Grant Application
IRS w-9 Form

Announcements Made: July 28, 2014