2013 Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series

MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership, supports leaders from Mentoring Partnerships and other capacity-building organizations, who are collaborating to deliver a monthly webinar series for mentoring professionals. Through individual efforts and collective wisdom, this team delivers a webinar each month that is focused on strengthening mentoring practice, sharing emerging research, and helping the field put research into practice.

These webinars are FREE for mentoring professionals and technical assistance providers. They are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 12:00pm-1:15pm CST.

Upcoming Webinars:
May 16, 2013: Mentoring At-Risk Youth Study
June 20, 2013: Creative Funding Sources for Mentoring Programs
July 18, 2013: Mentor Recruitment and Retention
August 15, 2013: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Mentoring Relationships
September 19, 2013: Mentor Training
October 17, 2013: Program Evaluation
November 14, 2013: Leveraging National Mentoring Month
December 19, 2013: Peer-To-Peer Mentoring

Register online for these webinars by visiting MENTOR’s website. In addition, you can view archived webinars from 2012 and 2013 on MENTOR’s website or by visiting Kansas Mentor’s website.
Q: Did you know that 3 million students are absent each month because they feel unsafe at school? Every 7 minutes a child is bullied on the playground.

These statistics about bullying are quite alarming. For the purposes of this study, bullying is defined as, “unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.”

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are joining forces with the StopBullying.gov website. This site emphasizes action steps individuals can take to prevent, stop, and talk about bullying in their schools and communities. It also features resources and tools for community leaders, youth-serving organizations, young people, families and schools.

Visit StopBullying.gov today. A mentor’s role in a youth’s life can be vital in a bullying situation. Mentoring programs can find this site useful when creating trainings around bullying and mentors can use this site as an ongoing resource.

2013 Coaches’ Challenge
States to join Coaches’ Challenge

For five years in a row, Kansas has been the reigning champion of the annual Coaches’ Challenge. The competition is getting fierce for 2013’s challenge with the potential addition of three states: Michigan, Minnesota, and Texas.

The Challenge will kickoff in August 2013. Kansas Mentors invites all mentoring programs across the state to participate in the festivities. Outstanding mentor/mentee matches will be invited to attend football games where they will be recognized for their time as a match, in an effort to showcase the importance of mentoring, and spread the word about the Coaches’ Challenge.

Are you interested in nominating an outstanding mentor/mentee match for this honor? You can find a match nomination form on the KM website today!

26,250 new mentors have been recruited since the Coaches’ Challenge began in 2008.
Grant Funds Still Available for Background Checks!

Still Accepting Applications for Background Check Grant:

In an effort to reduce a significant funding barrier that mentoring programs face when trying to recruit and match mentors with youth on their waiting lists, Kansas Mentors is excited to announce a grant opportunity for Gold Star programs to help reduce the costs of Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) criminal background checks. In 2012, VolunteerKansas graciously granted Kansas Mentors $100,000 to reimburse Gold Star mentoring programs in the state of Kansas conducting KBI background checks. This year, Kansas Mentors will be distributing $58,000 in background checks grants to qualifying programs.

Gold Star information and application and grant application materials can be found at www.kansasmentors.org. You may also contact Kansas Mentors at mentor@ksde.org or 785-368-6211.

2013 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism

Save the Date for the 2013 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism!!!

October 16-18, 2013
Hilton Garden Inn Hotel & Conference Center
Manhattan, Kansas

Learn, share and connect with nonprofit, volunteer, and mentor leaders and enjoy this year’s conference theme: “Aspire to New Heights: What’s Your Mountain?”

There will be a mentoring track at this year’s conference for mentoring programs to utilize. Do you have ideas for sessions? Are you interested in being a presenter during the conference? For all conference inquiries, please contact Kansas Mentors at 785-368-6211 or mentor@ksde.org.

Kansas Mentors Partner Spotlight

Kansas Mentors believes that mentoring programs in Kansas are some of the best out there! We want to showcase your programs and tell the world how AWESOME you are. Send us your stories-be it an amazing collaboration, a cool match activity, a new recruitment idea or an inspiring mentor/mentee story. You can also share your stories on Facebook and Twitter—we LOVE to share, repost and retweet!