**Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative (VGF) Grant**

**GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

The Kansas Volunteer Commission (KVC) is pleased to announce $100,000 in grant funding to increase the number of STEM mentors serving the youth of Kansas, through the Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative (VGF) Grant.

According to the US Department of Commerce, STEM jobs in the United States, in the past ten years, have grown at three times the pace of non-STEM jobs. Additionally, eighty percent of the fastest growing occupations in the United States depend upon the mastery of mathematics and scientific knowledge and skills. Investing in STEM education and sparking the STEM interest in students is necessary to ensure that our youth not only become interested in STEM careers, but are fully prepared when they embark on the college and career pathway to attain their STEM jobs.

The KVC understands that mentoring is a powerful way to transform a student’s vision of themselves. But in order to create a student population with a passion to learn more STEM, and a drive to pursue STEM careers, we know that adults need to do more than lecture to students. Therefore, the Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative will foster a consistent approach to STEM education, yet allow for organic development of STEM programs matching local strengths, challenges and resources.

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

The KVC will make available up to $100,000 in grants. The Commission expects to award grants of approximately $25,000. The KVC will select recipients based on their innovative approaches, size and scope of the proposed project and the organization’s demonstrated readiness to implement the proposed project. The KVC will aim to choose only one sub-grantee per community. Applicants understand that this is a cost-reimbursement grant funding opportunity.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Application information can be found by visiting the KVC website, [www.KanServe.org](http://www.KanServe.org). Applications are due by close of business (5:00PM) November 14, 2014.

Please direct all grant questions to Cheri Faunce, [cfaunce@ksde.org](mailto:cfaunce@ksde.org) or 785-368-6211.
Congratulations to all of the matches who were nominated and selected to attend an on-the-field recognition ceremony during the September 20th KU football game and the September 27th KSU football game. These amazing matches were recognized as “Kansas’ Outstanding Matches”, and their names were shown across the big screen.

**Matches Selected Include:**
- Sue Richardson & Isiah L’Ecuyer – CASA
- Tammy Potts & Kendra Otterman – Basehor-Linwood Mentors
- McDouglas Archibong & Don’na Lindsey – Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Jamees Griffin & Ben Deines – Schools of Hope
- Stene Verhulst & Layton Daniels – Big Brother Big Sisters of the Flint Hills
- Keith Briggeman & Mike McGourney – MATCH: Mentor a Teen; Create Hope

**2014 Outstanding Matches**

**Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series**

**November 21, 2014**

12:00-1:15PM

**National Mentoring Month: Communicating as a Movement**

How loud can we be as a mentoring movement? Very loud if we join forces for National Mentoring Month! The Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series is committed to helping prepare your program each year to participate in National Mentoring Month, which occurs in January. Join this webinar to learn how your participation in National Mentoring Month communications can raise awareness and resources not just for your program, but for mentoring programs throughout the country. MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership’s director of marketing and communications, Diane Quest, will share communications tools you can use to participate in this campaign, information on programs that have successfully implemented local campaigns and the value of national participation. Join this webinar, and speak for the movement in January!

**REGISTER NOW**

Proud affiliate of...
Quarter Two has ended and the results of our mini-challenge with Iowa are in (see picture)! Kansas is still leading in the mini-challenge. A BIG congratulations to all of our participating programs for the continued success in mentor recruitment!!

Do you need ideas for how to better leverage the Coaches’ Challenge campaign? Do not hesitate to contact KM Director to learn more and/or brainstorm opportunities for your program. And don’t forget to use #coachesmentoringchallenge on your Facebook and Twitter pages!!

Many of you know that Coach Weis is no longer with Kansas University football. Due to the coaching changes, the current Coaches’ Challenge materials are null; and KU has asked us to stop using them. In an effort to rectify the situation, KU offered to pay for the creation of new Coaches’ Challenge materials. We are very grateful to KU for their continued support of this campaign and we are thankful for their partnership.

Above, please see our “new and improved” Coaches’ Challenge campaign materials (postcard pictured). Programs should expect to receive their new materials by the first week of November.

Once again, please make these materials work for your programming needs. You are more than welcome to make additions, include your program name and contact information and more.

If you didn't order Coaches’ Challenge campaign materials, but would like copies of the new materials, please contact KM Director, mentor@ksde.org or 785-368-6211. We will have some extra materials available for programs who want them.