Kansas Mentors is excited to relaunch the Kansas Mentors Connection, a monthly newsletter.

This newsletter aims to strengthen the connectivity of the statewide youth mentoring network and to educate programs on the resources and technical assistance available through Kansas Mentors.

ABOUT KANSAS MENTORS

Kansas Mentors is a statewide mentoring partnership that connects over 150 mentoring programs with one another and serves as a resource center for communities wishing to start a program.

We believe that all youth deserve a caring adult role model in their lives to support and guide them. In reflection of that vision, Kansas Mentors’ mission is to promote safe and effective youth mentoring practices and inspire more Kansans to be mentors.

Looking forward to 2018, Kansas Mentors is dedicated to focusing on the following activities:

Provide training and technical assistance to new and veteran mentoring programs based on the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring.

Administer the Kansas Gold Star Mentoring Program.
Advocate for mentoring and recruit mentors for Kansas programs through mentoring initiatives, newsletters, website, public presentations, social media, and campaigns.

Act as a hub of information for those interested in mentoring; providing resources and connecting individuals, based on their needs, to mentoring programs listed in the Kansas Mentors program database.

JANUARY WAS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Kansas Mentors kicked off 2018 with a proclamation signing declaring January as Kansas Mentoring Month and we attended MENTOR's National Mentoring Summit and Capitol Hill Day in DC. See photos below!

**Kansas Mentor Month Proclamation Signing**
From left to right is Big Sister Audrey, Little Sister Kayleigh, Hannah Odette, Eric Maydew, Joe Marlow, Governor Sam Brownback, Mickey Edwards, Destinee Parker, Ashley Christiansen, Jamie Crispin, Carolyn Wims-Campbell.

**Capitol Hill Day Kick Off in DC**

**Kansas Mentors Director, Destinee Parker**
On site for congressional meetings at the Hart Senate Office Building in DC.

**Excellence in Mentoring Awards at the Library of Congress in DC**

**QUOTES FROM THE EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING AWARDS:**
The Kansas Volunteer Commission awarded VGF Mini-Grants to two organizations to promote STEM mentoring. Congratulations!

**KANSAS MENTORS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Kansas Mentors Advisory Council (KMAC), composed of mentoring experts from across the state, provides guidance for how Kansas Mentors can best assist existing mentoring programs and communities wishing to start a program.

KMAC has been working toward defining who we are and what we do. Together, we have made some updates to our council guidelines and to Kansas Mentors’ mission statement. We will continue working together to make changes that support our mission.

**CURRENT KMAC MEMBERS:**
Jim Autrey  
Director,  
Council Grove Community Mentoring Program

Jennifer Haley  
Director,  
Foster Grandparent Program

Donnovan Karber  
National Field Director,  
Christian Association of Youth Mentoring

Tammy Potts  
District Coordinator,  
Basehor-Linwood Mentors and CareCats

Megan McClelland  
Director of Grants and Innovation,  
Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters

Candice McIntosh  
Executive Director,  
Girls on the Run of the Flint Hills

Hannah Odette  
Director of Grants,  
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

Brandy Tofel  
Associate Vice President of Field Operations,  
Communities In Schools of Mid-America

More exciting changes will be coming so stay tuned!

Contact Us:
Kansas Mentors  
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Phone: 785-368-6211

Like us on Facebook and  
Follow us on Twitter!

KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION  
SERVE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER