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Mentoring in Out of School Time Programs

Young people are better prepared for their future when supported by caring adults

HIGH QUALITY MENTORING ENHANCES OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

Mentoring in out of school time programs provides adults with intentional opportunities to support the development of young people. Mentoring provides the trusting relationships that young people need with adults to help prepare them for their future.

Young people test themselves through action and performance. A mentor can provide youth with access to positive experiences that ensure they transition to adulthood as good citizens engaged in meaningful work.

MENTORING DIRECTLY BENEFITS YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

Young people that are mentored show:

- ◆ Improved school attendance and performance – including higher graduation rates and increase post-secondary education
- ◆ Reduced truancy – youth are 52% less likely to skip school
- ◆ Improved Health Outcomes – including reductions in teen pregnancy and a 46% reduction in substance abuse
- ◆ Reduced juvenile crime – including a 32% reduction in violent behavior
- ◆ Reduced cost of adult crime
- ◆ Reduced needs for social services and public assistance

PROGRAMS THAT OFFER MENTORING SAVE SOCIETY COSTS

Mentoring programs in Minnesota provide societal savings of \$7,426 per year per youth served, including:

- ◆ \$2,129 from enhanced school achievement.
- ◆ \$371 from juvenile crime reduction

- ◆ \$950 from reduced substance use
- ◆ The return on investment for each dollar invested is 2.72 per year.

MINNESOTA HAS A STRONG TRADITION OF MENTORING

A recent survey showed that more than 55% of mentoring programs in Minnesota have been in existence for more than 10 years.

- ◆ More than 34,000 mentors served nearly 170,000 youth across the state in 2005 during these programs.
- ◆ Volunteers contributed more than 691,000 hours of service.
- ◆ 67% of programs provide ongoing support to both mentees and their families.

OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT IN MN

- ◆ There are still 450,000 young people, with considerable risk factors, who need and could benefit greatly from an adult mentor.
- ◆ Youth engaged in meaningful community learning opportunities build important 21st century skills that increase their preparedness for the future workforce.
- ◆ Mentoring provides a tremendous opportunity for businesses to become engaged in their communities and build relationships with local youth organizations.
- ◆ Businesses are in a unique position of be able to provide mentoring opportunities to young people in afterschool and community settings that give them valuable work experiences.