

## CALLING ALL GOOD MEN TO PUT THE “MEN” BACK INTO MENTORING

**Do you have an hour to support local young male students?** Please help us reach our goal of recruiting 90 good mentors in support of the 90% high school graduation goal by 2020, and the need for male mentors in our community. The Promise Councils are teaming up to make a collective impact with the Boys and Girls Club of McLean County and Big Brothers Big Sisters of McLean County to recruit male mentors with an emphasis for minority male mentors. All it takes is one hour per week for one year to help guarantee a young person that there is someone who cares about them.

**What is a mentor?** A mentor is a caring adult who devotes time to a young person. Although mentors can fill any number of different roles, all mentors have the same goal in common: to help young people achieve their potential and discover their strengths. Mentors should understand they are not meant to replace a parent, guardian or teacher. A mentor is not a disciplinarian or decision maker for a child. A mentor is part of a team of caring adults and their main purpose is to help a young person define individual goals and find ways to achieve them. Since the expectations of each young man will vary, the mentor's job is to encourage the development of a flexible relationship that responds to both the mentor's and the young man's needs.

**Why mentor?** Mentoring is a positive youth development strategy that supports the GradNation<sup>1</sup> goal of attaining a 90 percent high school graduation rate by the Class of 2020. Dropping out of school is not a singular event but rather the culmination of a long process of disengagement. It is critical that intervention efforts, such as mentoring, aimed at students with a disproportionate number of risk indicators for dropping out of high school reach students at an early age.

**A mentor may help a young person:**

- Plan a project for school
- Set career goals and start taking steps to realize them
- Make healthy choices about day-to-day life, from food to exercise and beyond
- Think through a problem at home or school

**The Benefit of Mentoring:**

- Mentors help keep students in school and can improve their mentees' academic skills.
- Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class (Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers Big Sisters).
- Mentors provide their mentees with an experienced friend who is there to help them deal with their daily challenges.

Please consider giving the gift of yourself to someone who would benefit from your life experiences. If this opportunity isn't for you, please extend this opportunity to another good man.

**How to sign-up for a mentor opportunity:**

Boys & Girls Club	Big Brothers and Big Sisters	Promise Council
Commitment: 1 hour/per week; 18 weeks (one school semester) 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. – tutoring 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – activity support	Commitment: 1 hour/per week; 1 year	Commitment: 1 hour/per week; 1 year

<sup>1</sup> America's Promise Alliance and GradNation

<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club</b>	<b>Big Brothers and Big Sisters</b>	<b>Promise Council</b>
1 year from time of match	1 year from time of match	1 year from time of match
<b>Expectations:</b>	<b>Expectations:</b>	<b>Expectations:</b>
Meet with your mentee weekly after school at a Boys & Girls Club location. Play games, work on homework, talk about interests and hobbies and just provide your child an opportunity to have someone to share time with. During summer months, have the option to participate in Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp.	Meet with your Little weekly during the school year over a lunch hour or other agreed upon time during the school day. Play games, work on homework, talk about interests and hobbies and just provide your child an opportunity to have someone to share time with. During summer months, maintain contact through phone calls or letters or consider transitioning your match to a community-based relationship.	Meet with your Little weekly during the school year over a lunch hour or other agreed upon time during the school day. Play games, work on homework, talk about interests and hobbies and just provide your child an opportunity to have someone to share time with. During summer months, maintain contact through phone calls or letters or consider transitioning your match to a community-based relationship.
<b>How do I get started?</b>	<b>How do I get started?</b>	<b>How do I get started?</b>
<a href="http://www.bgcb-n.org/volunteering/">www.bgcb-n.org/volunteering/</a>	Contact Jourdan Cobbs at the BBBS office <a href="mailto:j.cobbs@bbbscil.org">j.cobbs@bbbscil.org</a> or 309-828-1870 for more information on the next steps to become a mentor.	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/PromiseCouncil/">www.facebook.com/PromiseCouncil/</a>
<b>Who do I contact for more information?</b>	<b>Who do I contact for more information?</b>	<b>Who do I contact for more information?</b>
Contact Jenny Hall at the BGCBN office <a href="mailto:jhall@bgcb-n.org">jhall@bgcb-n.org</a> or 309-829-3034 for more information on the next steps to become a mentor.	Contact Jourdan Cobbs at the BBBS office <a href="mailto:j.cobbs@bbbscil.org">j.cobbs@bbbscil.org</a> or 309-828-1870 for more information on the next steps to become a mentor.	Contact Vicki Cyrulik (309) 763-1163 for more information on the Promise Councils.

Currently, there are 11 Promise Councils established in Bloomington-Normal schools. Promise Councils are a collection of caring adults that connect and engage community resources to the specific needs of students as identified by teachers and school staff. For more information on Promise Councils, please contact Vicki Cyrulik at (309) 763.1163 or [5promises@statefarm.com](mailto:5promises@statefarm.com).