

## National Mentoring Month

- WHEREAS,** today, Mayor Diana Broderson has declared January 2017 as [National Mentoring Month](#) in Muscatine to coincide with statewide and nationwide efforts during the annual National Mentoring Month; and
- WHEREAS,** this proclamation recognizes the fact that every day quality mentoring programs in our city connect hundreds of mentors to our young people and cultivate relationships that provide crucial support and guidance as these young adults grow and develop into our next generation of citizens and leaders; and
- WHEREAS,** research has shown that when matched through quality mentoring program, mentors can play a powerful role in providing young people with the tools to make responsible decisions, stay focused and engaged in schools, and reduce or avoid risky behavior like skipping school, drug use and other negative activities; and
- WHEREAS,** in a recent national report called The Mentoring Effect, young people who were at-risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were 55 % more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. They were also (1) 81% more likely to report participating regularly in sport or extracurricular activities; (2) 78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities; and (3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team; and
- WHEREAS,** the same report found that one in three youth will reach age 19 without a mentor. National Mentoring Month in Muscatine gives us the opportunity to highlight quality mentoring programs that produce these positive benefits, and to focus on year-round strategies to grow their capacity to ensure every young person in Muscatine who needs a mentor is connected to a caring adult; and
- WHEREAS,** Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muscatine County serves over 200 youth a year with several remaining on the waiting list; and
- WHEREAS,** it is the goal of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muscatine County to help every child in Muscatine reach his/her potential with the help of dedicated volunteers who don't do it for the for the recognition by any means but the service they are doing, and Director Lindsey Phillips said they should be applauded often and by the whole community; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Mentoring Month public awareness campaign, recognized by presidential and congressional proclamation, is led by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership in partnership with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Highland Street Foundation; and
- WHEREAS,** this year National Mentoring Month will celebrate 15 years of service. "Mentoring programs and supporters have leveraged National Mentoring Month as an opportunity to not only raise awareness but to get their communities engaged in this effort to provide a critical support to our young people," said David Shapiro, president and CEO of MENTOR. "It's only with this level of commitment and involvement that we can ensure every young person has the supportive relationships they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive and engaged adults."

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Diana Broderson, Mayor of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, do hereby proclaim January 2017 as National Mentoring Month and call upon the people of the City of Muscatine to recognize those volunteers who mentor our young people as they grow and develop into our next generation of citizens and leaders.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto subscribed my name to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

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Diana Broderson, Mayor