



RESEARCH & POLICY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 26 AND 27, 2006





"THE NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION: How To Close America's Mentoring Gap"





NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Released in May 2006.
- Result of 18 months of conversation and debate.
- Chaired by Alan Schwartz & Haim Saban.
- Engaged hundreds in conversation and more via survey research/focus groups.





NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Takes a two-fold approach to the challenge of closing the gap.
- Approach that focuses on both quality and quantity.





NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Quality: Narrowing the gap between what we know and what we do ... in practice & policy-making.
- Quantity: Narrowing the distance between 10-17 year olds who want/need mentors (17.6M) and those who have them (3M).





NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Pinpoints most critical issues facing mentoring.
- Advances 21 recommendations.
- Recommendations fall into five categories (strategic solutions).
- Also advances position that “gap closing” can succeed only if progress is made in all five areas.





NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION: Strategic Solutions

- Generate Adequate & Sustainable Funding
- Foster a Culture of Mentoring
- Safeguard Program Quality
- Elevate the Role of Research
- Build Necessary Infrastructure





NATIONAL AGENDA FOR ACTION: Elevate the Role of Research

- Three recommendations.
- First two emerged from 2003 Research Summit.
 - Dedicated funding streams
 - Support for high-priority projects
- Third calls for establishing a Mentoring Research & Policy Council, based on the premise that policy makers & mentoring practitioners alike ...





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- Aimed at bridging another gap.
- Gap between/among researchers, practitioners & policymakers.
- Gap exacerbated:
 - Differing priorities
 - Differing world views
 - Differing forums for exchange ...





DIFFERING WORLD VIEWS

"Slow Down"

"Hurry Up"

"Make Up Your Mind"





"SLOW DOWN"

- Researchers cautioning practitioners & policymakers to temper their zeal for expanding mentoring with facts; with more evidence of commitment to quality.
- Exemplars: Jean Rhodes & David DuBois
 - American Youth Policy Forum
 - Social Policy Report (2006)
 - Meta Analyses (2002)





"HURRY UP"

- Practitioners urging policymakers to move more quickly; to expand programs with demonstrated success or commitment to best practices ...

Exemplars: -- Across Ages

-- Big Brothers Big Sisters

-- MENTOR

- Practitioners urging researchers to produce actionable research





"HURRY UP"

- Is "whole child" approach stronger than "partitioned child" approach?
- Should mentoring programs be integrated into existing youth development programs – e.g., after-school programs? If so, ...
- What constitutes success ... for which age groups? Where are the tools to measure it?





"MAKE UP YOUR MIND"

- Policymakers ... urging both researchers & practitioners to provide definitive advice.
 - Tell us what you "know."
 - Tell us what you would do.
 - Tell us what you can do, not ...
- Time is short:
 - Executive Branch appointees
 - Legislators
- Process for making policy is rarely ideal.





Our Hopes for the Research & Policy Council

Jean Rhodes, Ph.D., Chair

Dave Van Patten, Vice Chair

Inaugural Group



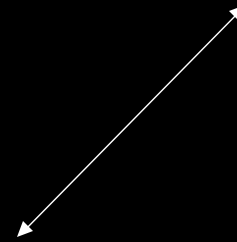
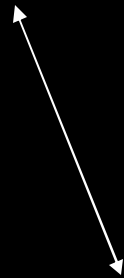


NOW

Practice



Policy



Research



FUTURE ...

