YES I CAN — HELPING MENTEES SEE COLLEGE IN THEIR FUTURES

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Mentoring Works

- Close and effective mentoring relationships can provide young people with the developmental resources needed for success.
- Through existing trusting and caring relationship, mentors have the unique opportunity to infuse college and career focused activities into existing match meetings and events.
- Learn how mentors can use tools and materials to dispel myths and perceived barriers to going to college in order to create the pathway for higher education.
- Research suggests that students who engage with a mentor for a sustained period of time are more likely to attend post-secondary institutions.
- For many youth, there may be inadequate or nonexistent adult conversation and/or support around going to college. Mentors can fill that void and provide the support, encouragement, and resources to set their mentees on a path for further education.
College Access

• Encouraging and helping K-12 youth consider, plan for, and attend postsecondary institutions after high school

• Efforts are often aimed at underrepresented students, especially low-income and first-generation (or first in their families to go to college) students.

• However, the goal is college access for all.
Definition of College

The term “college” refers to:

- Colleges and Universities (4 years)
- Community and Junior Colleges (2 years)
- Vocational, Technical, and Business Schools (certificate programs with various completion times)
Disparities Exist

- Money
- Information
- Resources
- Low Expectations
Barriers to College

- **Social Capital**
  - College is not attainable
  - Lack of support from family members
  - First in their family

- **Academic Preparation**
  - Lack of preparatory courses or AP classes
  - ACT or SAT
  - Study habits
  - School Attendance

- **College Knowledge**
  - Counselor to Student Ratio
  - Applying
  - Visiting Colleges
  - Majors

- **Affordability**
  - FAFSA
  - Loans
  - Scholarships
Goal: Create College Positive Mentors

- Encourage & help K-12 youth consider, plan for, and attend postsecondary institutions
- A College Positive Mentor is a mentor who is aware of how they impact the college future of their mentee
- Mentors are perfect for increasing college access because…
  - They are already interacting with their mentee on a regular basis
  - They are a caring adult (other than a parent, counselor or teacher) and therefore, the youth may be more likely to listen to them
College Positive Mindset

Our aim is to prepare mentors to be an effective college resource for their mentees and to always have the mindset:

College is attainable for everyone. I am willing to do whatever I can to help my mentee prepare for and enroll in college.
The College Positive Motto

Not: Are you going to college?

But: Where are you going to college? And how can I help you get there?
What is the Mentor’s Role?

- College Positive Mentors:
  - Offer encouragement and support
  - Promote the college going mindset
  - Expose their mentee to the resources and options that make college a realistic option
  - Equip their mentees with tools and knowledge to explore and pursue higher education
  - Draw healthy boundaries between the role of the mentor, mentee, and mentee’s parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Resources, NOT experts!
College Positive Mentoring Toolkit

Mentor Michigan and Michigan Campus Compact developed the College Positive Mentoring Toolkit, designed to provide mentors with the resources needed to help their mentees take important steps towards higher education.

- Information for Mentors, Mentees, and Families
- Conversation Starters
- Match Activity Ideas
- Ready-to-Use Activities
Toolkit Pieces

1. Elementary School Students
   • Conversation Starters and Tips
   • Match Activity Ideas
   • Reading Materials
   • Ready-To-Use Match Activities

2. Middle School Students
   • Conversation Starters and Tips
   • Match Activity Ideas
   • Reading Materials
   • Ready-To-Use Match Activities

3. High School Students
   • Conversation Starters and Tips
   • Match Activity Ideas
   • Helpful Websites and Resources
   • Ready-To-Use Match Activities

4. Additional Resources
   • Talking Points About Your College
   • Where Can You Learn Job-Related Skills?
   • Explore Possible Careers
   • Overview of Internet Resources
   • Ways to Pay for College
   • Frequently Asked Questions

5. Glossary of Terms
Activity Coding Legend

Community-Based Matches

School or Site-Based Matches

Need access to a computer with internet
College Positive Mentoring Toolkit

and ready-to-use activities are available to download at www.mentormichigan.org

Printed versions are available to purchase for $12.00/ea (includes shipping).

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“Discovering the Possibilities” Toolkit
National figures show that over 90% of middle schoolers’ expect to go to college, but in 2004 only 55% of those students who graduated high school continued immediately on to post secondary education.

Targeting the middle school years can help to instill a college culture and create more opportunity for self-awareness relative to career planning.

Using Mentors and the mentor-mentee relationship to deliver college planning and career exploration activities makes perfect sense.
Discovering the Possibilities Toolkit

12 Lessons Grouped into 3 Sections

(1) Exploring Careers: “I See My Future”: These modules encourage mentees to learn about themselves and to apply that knowledge to the exploration of careers.

(2) Preparing for College: “I See My Options”: This section provides an introduction to college, exposing mentees to new possibilities and encouraging them to fulfill their dreams.

(3) Building Character: “I See Myself”: This section focuses on building concrete skills that are essential for success in post-secondary education.
Highlighted Activities

- **I See My Future (pg.5)**: Creating a “story board” of their future vision of self. Serves as the foundation for the toolkit. Self-awareness starts with imagining life and reflecting on who you are.

- **Do I Need it or Do I Want it? (pg 7)**: Learning the difference between personal needs and wants and considering this as it relates to career experiences and working environments.

- **Is College For Me? (pg 13)**: Dispelling myths about what it takes to go to college. Filling the void of basic information that may exist while also setting the record straight.
Discovering the Possibilities Toolkit

Toolkit and ready-to-use activities are available to download at www.mentorkids.org

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THE CONNECTICUT MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

Career Mentoring Toolkit
“Career Mentoring” Toolkit
CT Mentoring Partnership

The goal of our Career Mentoring toolkit is in line with our mission to help prepare a stronger workforce:

• Teach students that career development is an ongoing lifelong process.

• Connect classroom learning to possible careers

• Prepare youth to explore options and make informed decisions regarding high school course selections and eventually careers.
Career focused mentoring is primarily centered on:

- Career preparation and work-based learning experiences
- Positive attitudes and behaviors in the workplace
- Skills necessary to meet expectations in STEM jobs
“Career Mentoring” Toolkit
CT Mentoring Partnership

Results to date:

- With funding from Travelers Insurance, the Connecticut Mentoring Partnership launched a Career Mentoring Pilot in 2010 /2011.

- At the end of the pilot each of the students were able to:
  - Create a resume
  - Understand concepts such as the relationship between income and human capital
  - Expand their STEM vocabulary
“Career Mentoring” Toolkit

Next steps:

• With continued support from Travelers, throughout 2012, the Governor’s Prevention Partnership will be launching the Career Mentoring Toolkit statewide!
Career Mentoring Toolkit

Spring 2012 the Toolkit and ready-to-use activities will be available to download at www.preventionworksct.org

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INDIANA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

College Success Mentoring Initiative
INDIANA INITIATIVES

- College Success Campaigns
- College Success Coalitions
- College Success Mentoring

Students K-12, College & Adults
INDIANA CAMPAIGNS

• Three annual statewide campaigns:
  1) PLAN: College GO! Week — (Fall)
  2) PREPARE: KnowHow2Go — (Summer)
  3) PAY: Cash for College — (Winter/Spring)

• Guiding principles:
  • Clear college success focus for each campaign
  • Specific, practical steps for students at each level
  • State driven, locally led
Campaign Websites

CollegeGoWeekIndiana.org

CashforCollegeIndiana.org

KnowHow2GoIndiana.org
Indiana College Success Coalitions

**GOAL:**
- Create a college-going and completing culture
- Build local leadership and outreach capacity
- Improve student choices and outcomes

**OUTCOME:**
- County-level coalitions in all 92 counties (37 currently)
- State-level coalition to leverage work at local level
Indiana College Success Mentoring Initiative

• **GOAL**: Support students in accessing and succeeding in education and training beyond high school.

• **STRATEGY**: Provide quality mentors to 21st Century Scholars at the secondary and postsecondary levels.

• **OUTCOME**: Participating students complete a college credential.

• **FUNDING**: College Access Challenge Grant

• **GRANTS**: Disbursed to eligible high schools and mentoring organizations (Providers) upon application approval.
  - Schools: $5,000 per year
  - Providers: Grant based on capacity and agreed upon # of students to be served multiplied by $1,600
Indiana College Access
Mentoring Model – Direct Services

• Intensive, year-round, relationship-based mentoring (Maximum mentor/student ratio: 1 to 6)

• Mentoring focused on helping students plan, prepare and pay for postsecondary education

• Adult mentors are screened, trained, monitored, supported

• Mentoring consistent with the “Elements of Effective Practice”

• Students connected to related college prep services offered by local partners. (Examples: college visits, applications, financial aid, etc.)
Indiana College Success Mentoring Initiative

PROGRESS/UPDATE:

• # of communities serving = 6
• # of partnerships (HS/Provider) = 9
• # of students being served = 498
• Providers and schools receiving related trainings and technical assistance.
• Post-secondary mentoring model in final development.
• Development of partnerships and support systems for mentees at post-secondary level.
• Evaluation by outside group underway.
• Sustainability of initiative a primary focus.
Indiana College Success Mentoring Initiative

• CHALLENGES:
  1. Recruitment of Mentors
  2. Training Mentors for Initiative’s focus (college access and success)
  3. Sustainability

• SUCCESSES:
  1. Interest by schools and mentoring organizations to participate
  2. Enrolling students
  3. School – Provider Partnerships
Indiana Initiatives: Access Information

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• ABetterHour.org
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