



Mentoring in Rural Communities: Traveling the Distance to Facilitate Your Program



May 19, 2016

2016 Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series

Planning Team



NATIONAL
MENTORING
RESOURCE CENTER
A Program of OJJDP



Mentor Colorado



Good to Know...

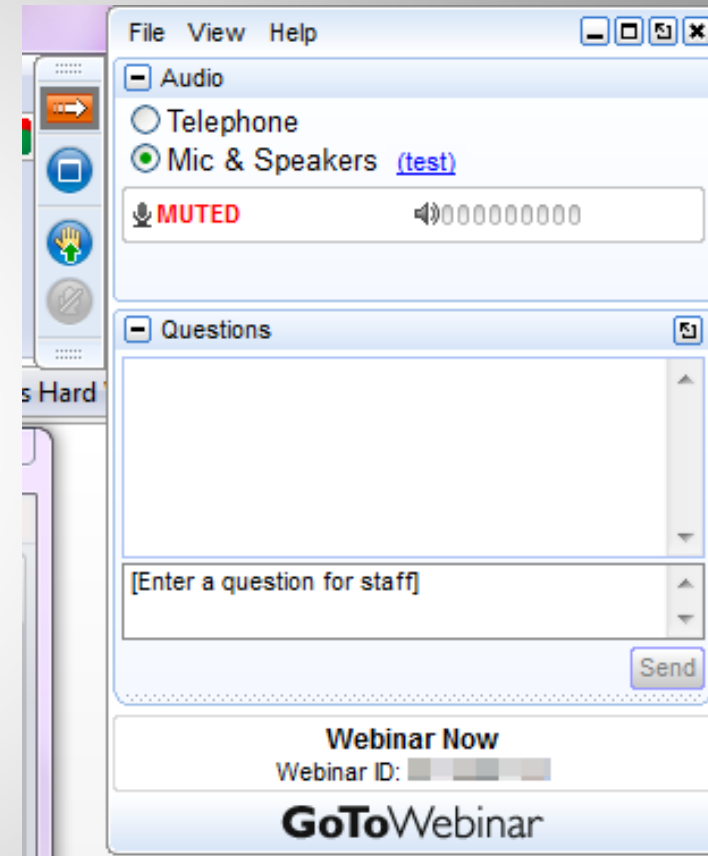
One week after the webinar, all attendees receive an email with:

- Instructions on how to access presentation slides and webinar recordings
- Link to the Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series webpage, where all slides, recordings, and resources are posted.

Please help us by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.

Participate in Today's Webinar

- All attendees muted for best sound
- Type questions and comments in the question box
- Respond to polls
- Who is with us today?



Today's Webinar

- Amanda Jamison, Heart of Oregon Corps
- Kimberly Briard, Take Stock In Children Palm Beach County
- Tina McGuinness, Gunnison Valley Mentors

**Q & A throughout the presentation
(use the Q & A panel)**

Amanda Jamison



- Mentoring & Leadership Coordinator at Heart of Oregon Corps YouthBuild in Central Oregon
- 15 years of experience working with youth of all ages
- Background working with Opportunity Youth in wilderness therapy

Kimberly Briard



- Mentor Coordinator at Take Stock in Children
- Bachelor's in Education from the University of Miami and an M.S. in Education from Florida International University
- Taught elementary school for 15 years

Tina McGuinness



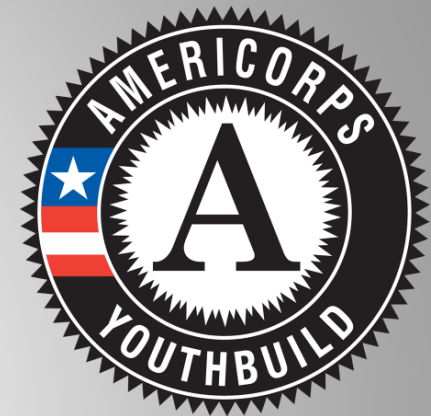
- Executive Director at Gunnison Valley Mentors
- Serves as VP of the Partners Mentoring Association state-wide board of directors
- Helped to establish the first youth mentoring program in the Republic of Georgia

Mentoring in Rural Communities

- Rural mentoring programs often face unique challenges
 - Recruitment
 - Retention
 - Activities
 - Transportation
- What is the biggest challenge your rural program faces?

Heart of Oregon Corps YouthBuild

Sisters, Oregon

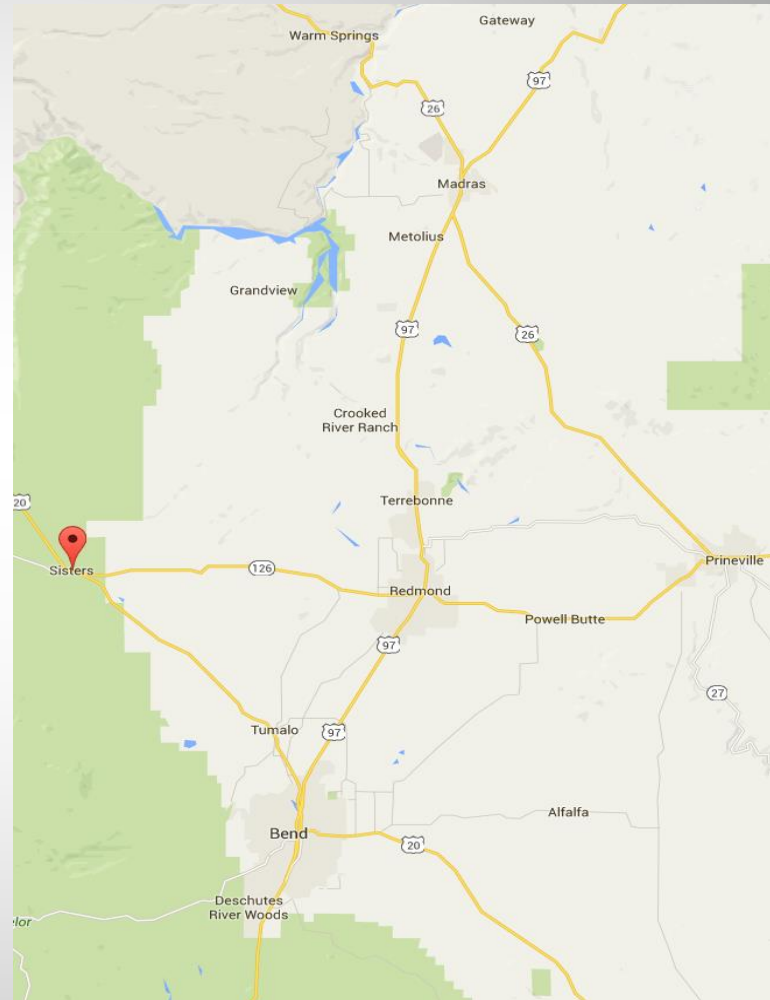


Heart of Oregon Corps- YouthBuild

- Intro to HOC YouthBuild
- Mentoring Model
- 45 Mentees, 8 Mentors

Good News/Bad News

- We live in a beautiful place, but...
- Our mentees live far away from the school.
- Many of our mentors live in Bend (30 min) and Redmond (25 min.)
- Bad weather



Barriers vs. Benefits

- Barriers
 - Sparse population to draw from
 - The travel time for matches to meet
- Benefits
 - Mentors are Committed!
 - Beautiful Field Trips



Recruitment

- Can be difficult in small rural communities
- Chamber events (3 communities)
 - Networking, bringing students
- Rotary, Kiwanis, VFW
- Public radio
- Community events



Live Your Program

- Take time to develop relationships
- Provide a variety a of volunteer activities



Coffee Clatter

- Crucial in keeping mentor engagement
- Provide mentors with ongoing training
- Give them a chance to meet together to talk about 1. obstacles and 2. successes
- Relationship building



Take Stock in Children Palm Beach Who Are We?



- Mentoring and College Scholarship Program
- Florida Statewide Non-Profit since 1995
- Provide a unique opportunity for deserving low-income and at-risk middle and high school students to escape the cycle of poverty.
- Serve 500 + Students
- 374 Mentors



Goal: Reduce the number of high school drop-outs and increase the number of students who enter and complete college and join the workforce successfully.

Each Scholar receives:

- A Mentor
- A College Readiness Coach (AmeriCorps)
- College Readiness Development
- A full Tuition Florida Prepaid Scholarship upon high school graduation.
- A College Retention Coach



Our Mentoring School Based Program

Our mentors are individuals willing to:

- Commit their time
- Be Consistent
- Be a role model
- Be a friend
- Be a support system
- Meet with mentee once a week at least 3 times a month
- Maintain Confidentiality
- Log in sessions
- Communicate regularly with the student and program



Retention Challenges



#1 Time and Convenience

- Challenges

- Distance
- Lack of time
- Lack of flexibility
- Life changes



- Solutions

- Find school close to work or home
- Recruit students where mentors are located
- Encourage mentors to text, call mentees, and attend program events
- Recruit mentors that want minimal time commitment
- Have mentors in waiting and substitute mentors



#2 Mentor Development

- Challenges
 - Lack of Resources
 - Inexperience
 - Attendance
 - Interest
 - Demographics



Mentor Development Solutions

- Solutions

- ✓ Mentor Orientation
 - Twice a Month
 - Central Location
 - Offer different times
 - Mentor Toolkit and other resources
- ✓ G.O.A.L.S. Workshops (Group Objectives and Learning Sessions)
 - 3-4 times a school year afternoon and evening sessions
 - Various locations
 - Various topics and speakers
 - Back to School Workshops



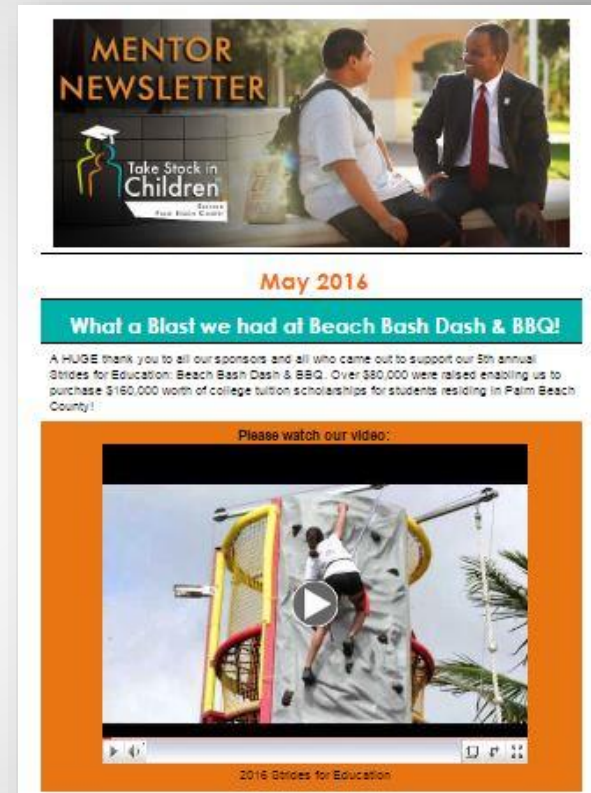
Mentor Development Solutions

- Mentor Ambassadors
 - Seasoned Mentors available to offer support to new and returning mentors
 - Attend various trainings to facilitate and share experiences.
- Mentor Newsletter
 - Section called “Knowledge is Power”
- Webinars



#3 Communication

- Challenges
 - Large number of mentors
 - Technical challenges
 - Awareness
- Solutions
 - Monthly Mentor Newsletter
 - Email Communication
 - Website
 - Texting/Phone
 - Postal Service
 - Database (Log in sessions and notes)



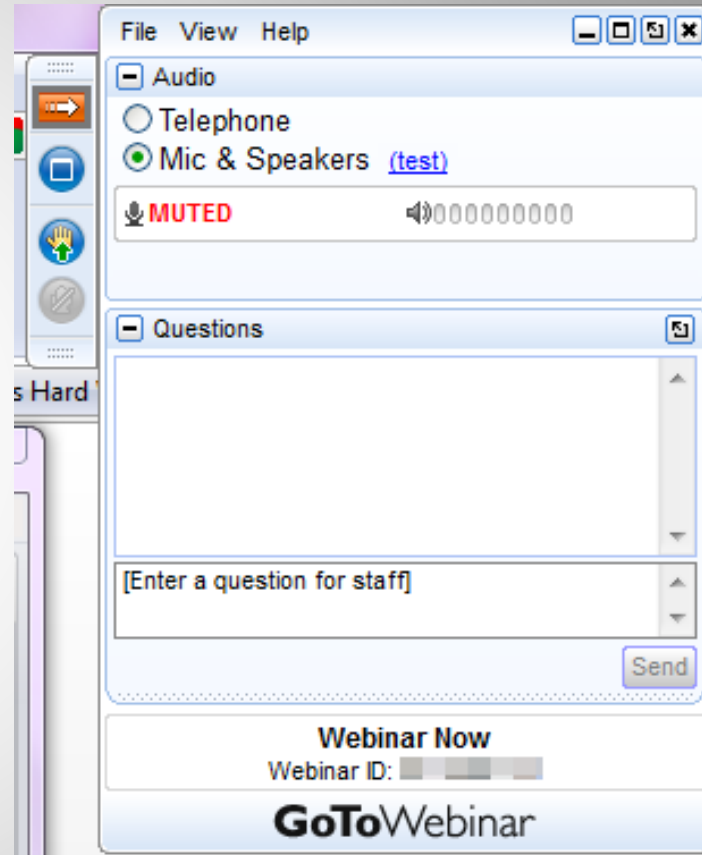
#4 Recognition

- Challenges
 - Reaching all Mentors
 - Not feeling appreciated
 - Distance
- Solutions
 - Mentor of the Month
 - Mentor of the Year
 - Monthly Mentor Shout Outs
 - National Mentor Recognition Month
 - Annual Mentor Appreciation Breakfast
 - Appreciation Events in mentor's location



Q&A for all Panelists

Type your questions in the question box:



Gunnison County Colorado

- Frontier
- 16,067 County population, 4.7/sq. mile
- Two economic centers
 - Gunnison, pop. 5839
 - Ranching, WSCU, Tourism
 - Crested Butte, pop. 1500
 - Ski Industry



Community Challenges

- Valley-wide disparities
- Pockets of poverty
- Low median household income
- High rates of substance abuse, child abuse & neglect
- Geographic isolation
- Access to health care

Community Building

- EVERYONE RECRUITS
- Get a seat at the table
- Be present
- Hire locally
- Participate in problem-solving
- Gratitude



Privacy Concerns

- Youth profiles
- Considerations in information sharing
- Confidentiality agreements that pay close attention to privacy
- Mentors share concerns in a safe environment
- On-going professional development for staff

Activities

The Challenges

- Transportation Issues:
big area,
small population;
limited public
transportation
- Fewer options
- Access



Activity Solutions

Transportation:

- Provide a variety of mentoring strategies that meet where the mentees already are.
- Get a van if you can.
- Arrange for mentees to ride a particular school bus (to the ice rink, to the community center, to the Arts Center. Mentors then have fun with them and parents pick up kids on their way home).
- Make matches that are convenient for both mentor and mentee (ie. Don't have a car? Encourage an after-school mentoring match or with a mentee who loves to ride bikes. Live in CB? Match with CB kid.
- Piggy-back activities: One big event with stations for parents (stress-management, stress-reduction), mentees (self-awareness), mentors (character development), then share a nice dinner.

Activity Solutions

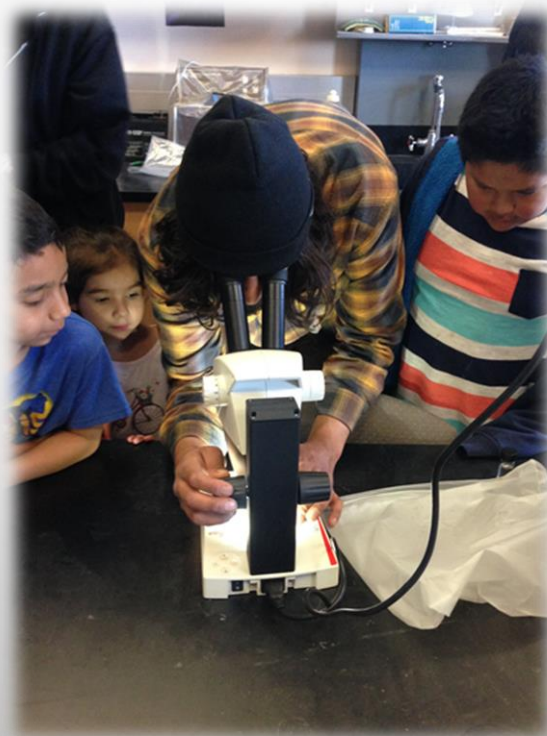
Options and Access

- Passes available to the rec center, WSCU athletic events, Partners Perks (discounted passes to restaurants, for ski rental equipment)
- Group activities – work with businesses to provide those super cool, expensive activities (rafting, skiing, camping, snowmobiling, dog-sledding, boating, horseback riding)
- Insurance considerations – higher risk activities
- Mentor Resource page on website with free things to do with your mentee (1). gunnisonmentors.com (2). scroll down to Mentor Resources (3). scroll down to Things to Do (4) click on Pinterest link.
- Weekly email blast with free things to do, community happenings, contribution projects



Basketball Mentoring

Partnering with WSCU



Boating at Blue Mesa

Activities

Find your own space

- The 8th Street School Mentoring Center
- Offer many opportunities for matches to participate in activities in the 8th St School Mentoring Center (Mondays – WSCU mentoring, T – drumming, W – cooking class, Th – hike) from after-school through evening)
- Also serves as an additional source of revenue through rental availability



WSCU Wilderness Society

Yoga



Art Class



Community Building and Activities



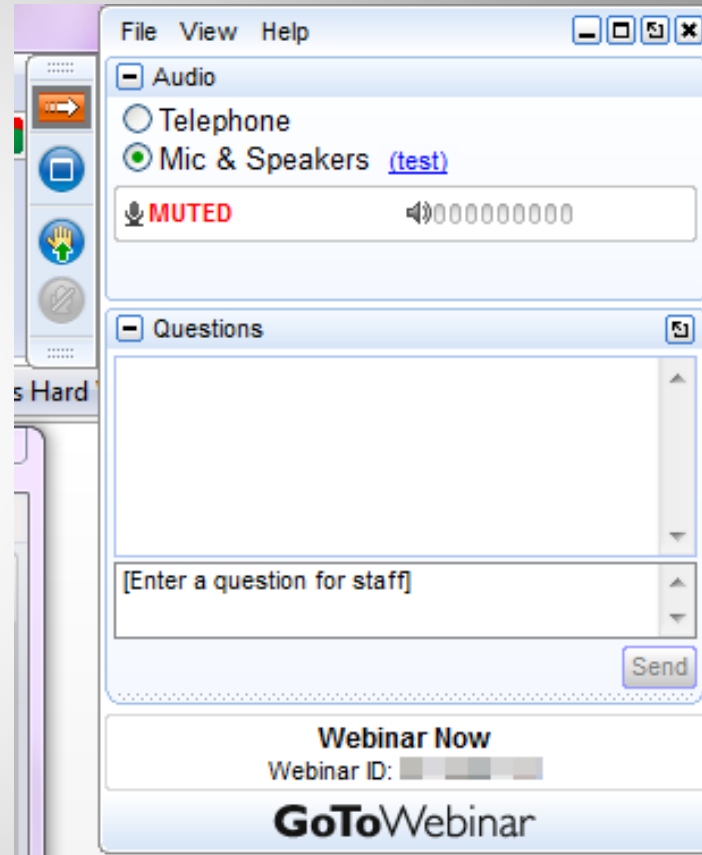
Community Projects

- Earth Day
- Park clean up
- Food drive, clothing drive, car washes
- Raising money to benefit non profits
- Flag Day
- Field trips, museums, hikes
- Noxious weed pulls



Q&A for all Panelists

Type your questions in the question box:



Additional Resources



National Mentoring Resource Center

Apply for no-cost help for your mentoring program

www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org

Mentoring Connector

Recruit mentors by submitting your program to the Mentoring Connector (previously called the VRS)

<https://connect.mentoring.org/admin>

Remember...

After the webinar:

- Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.
- Everyone will get an email with information on how to download the slides, recording, and resources on the CMWS webpage on the MENTOR website:

http://www.mentoring.org/program_resources/training_opportunities/collaborative_mentoring_webinar_series/

Stay Connected

- Email us at collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org
- Tweet with hashtag #MentoringWebinar
- Visit our webpage on the MENTOR website for past and upcoming webinars:



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the MENTOR website. The URL in the address bar is www.mentoring.org/program-resources/collaborative-mentoring-webinar-series/. The page features a dark blue header with the MENTOR logo and navigation links: "BECOME A MENTOR", "ADVOCATE", "DONATE", "Why Mentoring", "Get Involved", "Program Resources", "Our Work", and "News". The main content area has a large image of four people smiling and talking, with the text "COLLABORATIVE MENTORING WEBINAR SERIES" overlaid in white. Below the image, the word "WEBINARS" is written in bold. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: "MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) is proud to facilitate the Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series, supported by The National Mentoring Resource Center, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and in partnership with the following *Mentoring Partnerships*: California Mentoring Partnership, Mentor Colorado, Illinois Mentoring Partnership, Mentor Mentoring Programs: the National Mentoring Program Survey has officially launched. Stand up and be counted today!"

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series

Join Us Next Month!



STEM Mentoring
June 16, 2016
1 - 2:15 pm Eastern



Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series