



2026 NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Corporate Engagement Toolkit

WORK WITH BUSINESSES

Companies nationwide can lead by example and engage their employees in meaningful ways. Research has shown that employees' career satisfaction is often linked to their perception of how socially responsible an employer is, as well as how their work benefits communities. This is particularly true when it comes to employer commitment to youth mentoring efforts and uplifting the next generation within the workplace. MENTOR has found that **73% of employees report strong career satisfaction and that rates of mentoring increase dramatically in their communities through a "ripple effect" phenomenon.**

Corporate America occupies a uniquely influential position from which it can lead by example. By leveraging its prominent location in American society, it can take the initiative to empower youth.

National Mentoring Month is the perfect time to remind the companies in your community of the mutual benefits involved in supporting young people. Here are some ways you can strengthen your outreach:

RECOGNITION & GRATITUDE

- 1. Express gratitude:** Whether you thank your corporate partners via social media, create a thank you video or send them a handwritten note, they will appreciate being recognized for their commitment to mentoring. If you choose to publicly express gratitude, double-check any contract or written agreement you have with the company to check whether there are specific brand or recognition guidelines for doing so.
- 2. Recognize companies at the national level:** Invite companies in your community who support mentoring to register for the [National Corporate Mentoring Honor Roll](#). Launched in 2011 by First Lady Michelle Obama, the Honor Roll promotes and recognizes private-sector engagement and support of quality youth mentoring.



INFORMATION EXCHANGES

- 1. Provide sample content:** Make it easy for companies to celebrate National Mentoring Month by sharing sample messages that they can post on their social media channels and websites. Check out our [Digital Engagement Toolkit](#) for ideas!
- 2. Spotlight mentoring stories:** Work with companies to collect mentoring stories and photos from their employees and/or customers that they can promote through their communication channels. Further amplify the stories on your social media, your website, or in newsletters and blog posts throughout the month.
- 3. Host an open house:** Recruit new corporate partners by inviting them to an open house where they can meet mentors and mentees in your program. Facilitate a few mentoring activities so prospective partners can see and experience mentoring in action. This can also be adapted to be a virtual event!
- 4. Facilitate an info session:** Host a brown bag lunch or happy hour with prospective employee mentors to raise their awareness of your local mentoring gap, and provide opportunities to connect with youth.



ENGAGING PARTNERSHIPS

- 1. Celebrate employee mentors:** Plan an event to recognize the engagement and impact of employee volunteers. You can also invite mentees, supervisors, and direct reports to present awards and share what they value most in their mentoring relationships.
- 2. Create a picture book:** Assemble a book of pictures and quotes from mentors and mentees in your program and present the books to corporate partners to display in their lobbies and waiting rooms. Personalize the book with a handwritten thank you message inside the front cover.
- 3. Issue a challenge grant:** Work with a corporation to offer a challenge grant during National Mentoring Month to inspire others to engage in your efforts (e.g. \$1 for every post that tags your program or a 1:1 match for every dollar raised during January).
- 4. Partner with a company on a cause marketing campaign:** Ask local businesses to donate a portion of their proceeds to your organization in honor of National Mentoring Month, or to offer in-kind contributions that your program could use.



- 5. Partner with HR offices to encourage employee engagement with mentoring materials that may increase interest in mentoring, or contribute to enhancing a mentoring mindset in their workplace.** The list of key resources below that for companies to share with employees (through email blasts, intranet, etc.) is a great place to start!

[Becoming a Better Mentor: Strategies to Be There for Young People:](#) This report offers real-world advice and evidence-based strategies to provide mentors with tangible strategies to “be there” for young people in their various life journeys and teaches them about the core skills, key principles, and critical practices of mentoring.

[Building a Workforce Through Mentoring:](#) Hear directly from young people and corporate leaders on the power of workplace mentoring and how your organization can implement these critical opportunities.

[Connect | Focus | Grow:](#) A training curriculum that employs a three-pronged approach - to equip mentors with skills to effectively support the personal and professional growth of young people, to coach supervisors on how to manage with a mentoring mindset, and to guide young people towards engaging and leveraging mentoring opportunities while simultaneously meeting their goals.

[Workplace Mentoring Toolkits By Industry:](#) Explore toolkits tailored to meet the needs of the e-commerce and hospitality industries to help with career readiness in young people, as well as incorporating mentoring practices into the organization at large.

[Equity in Philanthropy, Amplify Youth Engagement:](#) Check out this webinar series to hear from funders working to center BIPOC youth in their work. Learn how some corporations and foundations have integrated youth leadership to improve grantmaking and partnership management practices.

[Corporate Social Responsibility Mentoring Showcase:](#) In this webinar, corporate leaders share how they have examined, enhanced, or adjusted their CSR strategies to support youth.



[Fresh Perspectives: Hiring and Retaining Opportunity Youth:](#) This webinar explores why companies should hire Opportunity Youth and shares proven strategies to support and retain these employees.

[Moving Toward a Wellness Environment in the Workplace:](#) By establishing best practices for creating holistic wellness in the workplace, this resource helps participants meet the socio-emotional needs of young employees.

[The Business Case for Mentoring:](#) This report by EY and MENTOR examines how top US businesses collaborate with the public and nonprofit sectors to connect youth in their communities to transformative mentoring relationships. The report also covers best practices for businesses looking to start or enhance a mentoring program, and looks at the value that those opportunities bring to the business and its employees.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN PERSON

LEANING ON THE FIELD OF WORKPLACE MENTORING

This workshop will be presented at the [2026 National Mentoring Summit](#), and will be particularly insightful for organizations that currently run their own mentoring programs and partnerships. If you know of any corporate partners or prospects that fit the bill, encourage them to [register for the Summit!](#) A key benefit among many, would be the ability to learn more about how integrating quality mentoring practices and processes can enhance their workplaces and lead to increased employee retention and satisfaction.

