



Kansas Mentors Connection  
December 2008

*Connect with Kansas Mentors Every Month! We invite you to browse the first edition of Kansas Mentors monthly e-newsletter; a great resource to stay up to date on mentoring efforts in Kansas. We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to Kansas youth over this past year - have a safe and joyous holiday season!*

### **KANSAS WINS 2008 COACHES' CHALLENGE**

Coach Bill Snyder and the state of Kansas were announced winners of the 2008 Coaches' Challenge at the K-State/Nebraska football game, November 15 in Manhattan. In June, Coaches Bill Snyder and Tom Osborne issued a friendly challenge to see which state, Kansas or Nebraska, could sign up the most new mentors. Kansas Mentors' partner programs were able to sign up over 4,000 new mentors during the five month period. Thank you to each of the programs that participated in the challenge as you helped to bring home a wonderful victory for the youth of Kansas. We look forward to continuing the Challenge next football season.

### **JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**

Celebrate mentoring during the month of January as part of a national collaboration between Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR. This is an excellent time to increase local promotional efforts and to tap into resources at both the state and national level. Kansas Mentors has submitted a proclamation to Governor Sebelius' Office to declare the month "Kansas Mentoring Month" and over 1,000 radio and television advertisements will air statewide, encouraging Kansans to mentor. To help you in your promotional efforts, Kansas Mentors has gathered a collection of resources available on our website including posters where can add your organization's logo. Visit the resource page at:

<http://www.kansasmentors.org/nmm.htm>

To order NMM materials contact the Kansas Mentors office at 785-296-8873.

### **FUNDING NEWS**

*The Finance Project:* Recently, Kansas Mentors shared a new publication by the Finance Project entitled, "Finding Resources to Support Mentoring Programs and Services for Youth." An audio conference was held December 18 in conjunction with this publication. To view the brief and the audio conference transcript visit:

<http://www.financeproject.org/index.cfm?page=31>

### **RECENT KM HAPPENINGS**

*MENTOR Partnership:* In August, Kansas Mentors announced its affiliation with MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership as a state partner. This collaboration allows Kansas Mentors access to a variety of resources including a network of twenty-four other state and local partnerships, technical assistance in developing partnership initiatives, and the ability to leverage a nationally recognized brand in KM's

marketing efforts. To learn more about MENTOR visit: <http://www.mentoring.org>

*New Director:* In July, Ella Todd was named the new Director of Kansas Mentors. Prior to this position, Todd worked in the marketing and development office at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan. It was here where she developed her passion for non profit work and communications. Todd holds a bachelors degree from Kansas State University where she majored in Marketing and minored in Leadership Studies. "These first few months have been full of exciting developments for Kansas Mentors," Todd said. "It has truly been a pleasure to meet with many of the state's mentoring efforts and I look forward to making future connections as we continue to develop this dynamic program."

**SAVE THE DATE: Annual Conference on Mentoring**

Plan to attend the 3rd annual Governor's Conference on Mentoring, April 14, 2009. Keynote speakers include Devone Boggan, nationally recognized training and technical assistance provider, and Dr. Andy Tompkins, former KS Commissioner on Education. Look for more information regarding breakout sessions and registration coming soon.

*Do you have an event or announcement you would like included in the newsletter? Send items to [mentor@kdheks.gov](mailto:mentor@kdheks.gov) and we'll try to incorporate them as possible.*

*Don't forget Kansas Mentors offers free background checks for partner programs. To learn more visit: <http://www.kansasmentors.org/recordscheck.htm>*