

Proclamation

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

WHEREAS, January is National Mentoring Month: an annual campaign to raise awareness of and celebrate the powerful impact of mentoring relationships, recruit new mentors, and encourage institutions to integrate quality mentoring into their policies, practices; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro, North Carolina recognizes the contributions of volunteer mentors, who link youth to economic and social opportunity, while also strengthening our community; and

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate and Volunteers for Youth Mentoring programs in Carrboro, make our communities stronger by enabling impactful relationships that provide invaluable support networks, provide support to mentors, provide opportunities that engage and enrich youth; and

WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs generally have a significant, positive impact on youth academic achievement, school connectedness and engagement, and educational success, which can lead to outcomes such as improved attendance, grades, test scores, and classroom behavior; and

WHEREAS, mentors can help young people set career goals, and can help connect mentees to industry professionals to train for and find jobs; and

WHEREAS, effective mentoring of underserved and vulnerable populations of young people helps them confront challenges and enjoy improved mental health and social-emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs have been found to positively impact many aspects of mental well-being, including reducing unhealthy coping mechanisms, improving interpersonal relationships, and reducing parental stress; and

WHEREAS, young people with a mentor are more likely to enroll in college, to participate in sports or extra-curricular activities, to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team, and to volunteer regularly, and less likely to start using drugs; and

WHEREAS, mentoring is an innovative, evidence-based practice and, uniquely, is both a prevention and intervention strategy that can support young people of all

demographics and backgrounds in all aspects of their lives; and

WHEREAS, despite the benefits of mentoring, one young person of every three is growing up without a mentor, which means a third of the youth of the United States are growing up without someone outside of the home to offer real-life guidance and support; and

WHEREAS, this “mentoring gap” demonstrates the need for collaboration among the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to increase resources for relationship-centric support for youth in communities, schools, and workplaces; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Barbara M. Foushee, do hereby proclaim January 2024, as National Mentoring Month in Carrboro, North Carolina.

This the 9th day of January, 2024.


Barbara M. Foushee

