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Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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OREGON COMMISSION ON BLACK AFFAIRS (OCBA)
RESOLUTION

Recognizing January 2019 as National Mentoring Month.

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are—

- (1) to raise awareness of mentoring;
- (2) to recruit individuals to mentor;
- (3) to celebrate the powerful impact of caring adults who volunteer time for the benefit of young people; and
- (4) to encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into the efforts of the organizations;

Whereas young people across Oregon make everyday choices that lead to the big decisions in life without the guidance and support on which many other people rely;

Whereas a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person—

- (1) discover personal strength; and
- (2) achieve the potential of that young person through a structured and trusting relationship;

Whereas quality mentoring—

- (1) encourages positive choices;
- (2) promotes self-esteem;
- (3) supports academic achievement; and
- (4) introduces young people to new ideas;

Whereas mentoring programs have shown to be effective in helping young people make positive choices;

Whereas young people who meet regularly with mentors are 46 percent less likely than peers to start using illegal drugs;

OR Commission on Black Affairs

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Whereas research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were, as compared with similarly situated young people without a mentor—

- (1) 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college;
- (2) 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities;
- (3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team; and
- (4) 78 percent more likely to pay it forward by volunteering regularly in the communities of young people;

Whereas 90 percent of young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor said they are now interested in becoming mentors themselves;

Whereas mentoring can play a role in helping young people attend school regularly, as research shows that students who meet regularly with a mentor are, as compared with the peers of those students—

- (1) 52 percent less likely to skip a full day of school; and
- (2) 37 percent less likely to skip a class;

Whereas youth development experts agree that mentoring—

- (1) encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions; and
- (2) has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and use the personal contacts of the mentors to help young people meet industry professionals and train for and find jobs;

Whereas each of the benefits of mentors described in this preamble serve to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening communities in Oregon; and

Whereas, despite those described benefits, young people feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside their home, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources:

Whereas, the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA)—

- (1) recognizes January 2019 as National Mentoring Month;
- (2) recognizes the caring adults who—
 - (A) serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help the young people find strength and reach their full potential;

- (3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because mentoring supports educational achievement and self-confidence, reduces juvenile delinquency, improves life outcomes, and strengthens communities;
- (4) promotes the establishment and expansion of quality mentoring programs to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and
- (5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” that exists for the many young people who do not have meaningful connections with adults outside their home.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs call upon public officials, business and community leaders, educators, and Oregonians across the state to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamal T. Fox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jamal T. Fox
OCBA Chair