



PRESS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDS PROGRAM TO EXPAND STUDENTS' UNIVERSE IN NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Next Orientation Meeting Scheduled for January 21 at Board Room

While continuing to build a comprehensive mentoring program for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), the Board of Education will recognize January as National Mentoring Month at its next orientation meeting for new mentors on **Wednesday, January 21 at 6 p.m.** in the Board Room at the Sasscer Administration Building in Upper Marlboro.

"The Board of Education has called upon school administrators, teachers, students, and the citizens of Prince George's County to honor National Mentoring Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities," said Board Chair Verjeana M. Jacobs, Esq. "We believe mentors have a unique opportunity to contribute to the positive growth and development of PGCPS students by providing guidance in their academic, social, and career development."

The theme of National Mentoring Month 2009 is "Expand Your Universe: Mentor a Child," and the goal is to recruit more mentors. The Board of Education began a mentor recruitment effort in August 2008 and the school district is working to match mentors with all freshmen this school year.

"Every member of our community can make an invaluable contribution to the success of our schools by mentoring a child," said Board of Education Vice Chair Dr. Ron Watson. "We are committed to recruiting and maintaining a pool of caring adults to support our students."

Research has shown that programs that rely on volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse, youth violence and truancy, while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for leading a healthy and productive life. National Mentoring Month is spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

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As a highlight of National Mentoring Month 2009, **Thank Your Mentor Day™** will be celebrated on January 22. On that day, all Americans are asked to reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them, and had a lasting impact on their lives.

The Board of Education will acknowledge "Thank Your Mentor Day" at the beginning of its monthly meeting on **Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:05 p.m.** in the Board Room at the Sasscer Administration Building in Upper Marlboro.

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