

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH | 2020

- WHEREAS,** in 2002, the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership created National Mentoring Month; and
- WHEREAS,** the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor, encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality mentoring into their efforts; and motivate youth to excel; and
- WHEREAS,** a mentor is a caring person that provides a consistent presence and devotes time to a young person to help that young person discover personal strength to persevere and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting relationship; and
- WHEREAS,** quality mentoring encourages and empowers young people to make positive choices, promote self-esteem and character development, support academic achievement and introduce young people to new ideas; and
- WHEREAS,** positive youth development theory understands adolescence as a distinct developmental phase where boundary testing and individual identity development are critical steps on the path to adulthood, steps that need to be supported, nurtured and cultivated by patient and caring adults in safe environments in order to reach their full potential; and
- WHEREAS,** mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration, truancy and professional success; and
- WHEREAS,** research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school, 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly extracurricular activities, 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs, 130 percent more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team, and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** mentors help young people set career goals and use their personal contacts to help young people meet industry professionals and find jobs to improve professional outcomes for young people; and
- WHEREAS,** mentors serve a critical role in helping youth successfully complete high school and gain admission to college, equipped with the skills and capacities they need to success in college and career; and
- WHEREAS,** National Mentoring Month is the time of year where engagement from community members interested in becoming a mentor is highest and an opportunity to celebrate, evaluate, and encourage mentoring in Durham.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I,** Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2020 as

**“NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”**

in Durham County, and hereby call upon public officials, business and community leaders, educators, and citizens to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs in order to:

- recognize the men and women who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help our young people find inner strength and reach their full potential;
- acknowledge that mentoring is beneficial because it facilitates healthy identity development, encourages educational achievement, reduces juvenile delinquency, expands career readiness, improves life outcomes, and strengthens communities;
- promote the creation, expansion, sustainability, and funding of quality mentoring programs across Durham to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and
- support initiatives to close the "mentoring gap" and promote critical mentoring to support boys of color with mentors who perceive and understand social, political and economic oppression and to take action against oppressive elements of society.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.

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Wendy Jacobs, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

