



Kansas Mentors Connection
February 2009

Thank you for your participation in National Mentoring Month! Next year we hope to build upon our efforts by providing our programs with additional resources and events. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can make 2010 a success, please send them to mentor@kdheks.gov!

SAVE THE DATE: Governor's Annual Conference on Mentoring
Plan to attend the 3rd annual Governor's Conference on Mentoring, April 14, 2009, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Topeka's Capitol Plaza Hotel. To learn more about the conference or to register online visit:
<http://mc.greenbush.org/?action=dispMeeting&mID=11463>

NEWS from MENTOR

MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership recently announced its public affairs priorities for the 111th Congress. These actions would help build the infrastructure necessary to expand high-quality mentoring programs across America. Highlights include streamlining the national records check process and federal funding for grant programs. To learn more visit:
<http://www.mentoring.org/news/92/>

PROMISING PARTNERSHIPS

America's Promise Alliance (APA) General Colin Powell and his wife, Alma, have committed to seeing that children experience the fundamental resources they need to succeed – the Five Promises – at home, in school and out in the community. Kansas was recently awarded a grant through the APA to develop a statewide dropout prevention plan including the hosting of a statewide summit in the fall of 2009. Mentoring has been identified by the APA as a crucial component with these efforts and Kansas Mentors is pleased to announce its membership on the state's planning committee.

APA is currently accepting applications from programs to be designated as a Promise Place. To sign up as a Promise Place programs must login or join the 15 in 5 campaign here: <http://15in5.americaspromise.org/>

Additionally, APA recently released *Grad Nation*, a free resource for anyone who wants to get involved and reduce the nation's dropout rate. To view a PDF online visit: <http://www.americaspromise.org/gradnation>

SPOTLIGHT ON: YouthFriends Reno County

On January 29, 2009, YouthFriends Reno County honored close to 50 business and individual sponsors and three local school districts at a

Founder's Dinner held at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. The evening was filled with mentoring success stories to celebrate the program's 10 years in Reno County. A decade of mentoring in Reno County has seen over 7,000 school children served by over 1,400 YF volunteers. Congratulations YouthFriends of Reno County!

When space allows we like to highlight the great work of our partner programs! Do you have an event or announcement you would like included in the newsletter? Send items to mentor@kdheks.gov and we'll try to incorporate them as much possible.