



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF QUALITY YOUTH MENTORING

2 WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that  
3 young person discover personal strength and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting  
4 relationship;

5 WHEREAS, quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic  
6 achievement and introduces young people to new ideas;

7 WHEREAS, mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline  
8 problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy;

9 WHEREAS, research<sup>1</sup> shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who  
10 had a mentor were 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 81 percent more likely to report  
11 participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, more than twice as likely to say they held a  
12 leadership position in a club or sports team, and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their  
13 communities;

14 WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to the social, emotional and  
15 cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully;

16 WHEREAS, mentors help young people set career goals and use their personal contacts to help young  
17 people meet industry professionals and find jobs;

18 WHEREAS, mentoring is a proven cost-effective investment: for every \$1 invested in mentoring, there is  
19 a \$3 return to society;

20 WHEREAS, all of the above listed benefits serve to link youth to economic opportunity while also  
21 strengthening the fiber of our communities;

22 WHEREAS, despite these benefits, one in three youth will reach age 19 without a mentor – constituting a  
23 “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources;

24 NOW LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the NLGA acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial to the youth  
25 of America because it encourages educational achievement and aspirations, reduces juvenile delinquency,  
26 improves life outcomes, and strengthens communities;

27 NOW LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NLGA recognizes the men and women who serve  
28 as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and who help our young people find inner strength  
29 and reach their full potential;

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<sup>1</sup> Bruce, Mary and Bridgeland, John (2014). *The Mentoring Effect: Young People’s Perspectives on the Outcomes and Availability of Mentoring*. Washington, D.C.: Civic Enterprises with Hart Research Associates for MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership.



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30 NOW LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NLGA encourages member states to promote the  
31 creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs to equip young people with the tools needed to  
32 lead healthy and productive lives;

33 NOW LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NLGA encourages member states to support  
34 initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” including the establishment and/or support of state *Mentoring*  
35 *Partnerships* to serve as unifying leaders for the local mentoring movement.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, IA; Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, CT. Additional Co-Sponsors:  
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