Think of Collaboration and Capacity building as a journey toward a goal.

We can increase resources for all of us, and lower the costs of getting these resources, if multiple programs build this collaboration strategy into their own actions.
A Tutor/Mentor Program is a **Collective Effort** where many people work to help young people grow up and lead lives out of poverty.

• How do you recruit volunteers and youth to join a program?

• How do you keep them participating throughout a school year?

• How do you keep them coming back from year to year?

**I’VE BEEN WORKING WITH THESE QUESTIONS EVERY DAY FOR 37 YEARS**
Mentoring Kids to Careers

Kids move through school and toward jobs, one year at a time. It takes 25 years. Age specific mentoring is needed at each grade level. This is a workforce development and diversity strategy, not just a mentoring strategy.

Find info on-line.
Anyone in the state should be able to go to a web site and find information they can use to mentor a youth from first grade to first job.

That’s the goal of the Tutor/Mentor Connection.

How to help every inner city youth move through school and into 21st century jobs and careers.

Education to Careers Chart
Activities for Learners of All Age Groups

Career Exploration Work-Based Learning

Investment in youth should be continuous throughout the K-16 years. If more youth leave poverty are to be starting jobs and careers by age 25. A study by James Heckman, a Nobel Prize winning economist at the University of Chicago and an expert on early childhood education, now shows for the first time that systematic interventions, such as additional tutoring and mentoring during their elementary and High School years, could sustain the early gains and build on them.

Gabriella Connections: Tutor/Mentor Connection
800 W. Huron, Chicago, IL 60622
www.tutormentorconnection.org
Tangela joined CC in 1993, after being part of the MW/Cabrini Green Tutoring Program when in elementary school.

If the goal is to help kids living in high poverty neighborhoods be starting jobs/careers by their mid-twenties....

--- 16 years later.

How do we help tutor/mentor programs connect with youth when they are young, and stay connected to those kids from when we first meet them, to when they need our help as adults?....
This strategy was launched in 1993 by a single tutor/mentor program operating in one neighborhood of Chicago...

We created the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC) in 1993 to help programs like Cabrini Connections grow in every poverty neighborhood of the city and suburbs of Chicago.

Using the Internet, the T/MC is collecting, hosting and sharing information that people in Chicago, and around the world, can use to help non-school tutor/mentor programs grow in every high poverty neighborhood.

We seek to be part of the think tanks, brainstorming and innovation of business, non profit, philanthropy, policy-makers and educators....anyone who wants to help poor kids have better support helping them through school and into careers.
The Tutor/Mentor Connection focuses daily on one big questions:

What will it take to assure that all youth born in poverty are entering careers by age 25?

What does it take to make volunteer-based programs like Cabrini Connections available to more youth, in more places?
We know others are asking the same question....

The T/MC seeks to connect people and groups who are already spending many hours doing research and innovating ways to help kids to careers, into one ongoing tutor/mentor learning network.

In such a network people and organizations can share ideas, learn from others, create collaborations, and can apply new ideas and resources at any time to their own efforts to help kids in their own community.

My participation in on-line forums is part of the T/MC network-building strategy.
T/MC aim is to collect information and organize actions that enable many leaders to take ownership of this vision.
Using Tutor/Mentor Program locator we can create maps showing areas where tutor/mentor programs are needed, existing programs, and community assets, such as business or faith groups, who might help provide space, volunteers, dollars, etc. Visit http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net to use this service.
All programs have same needs:

We need these resources every day, in every neighborhood:

* volunteers
* public visibility
* operating dollars
* technology
* training/learning
* leadership

The shaded areas of this map of Chicago are the areas of most concentrated poverty.
Maps can be used by any leader to focus attention on and district.

Using our GIS mapping system we can create maps that focus on specific political districts.

These can be used to mobilize support for tutor/mentor programs from the businesses, colleges, faith groups and citizens in the district.

Anyone, even students in 5th grade, can use these maps to invite people to support tutor/mentor programs in the district.
THINK ADVERTISING!

REACH: more people hear your message

FREQUENCY: your message is repeated often every day.

Without big budgets for advertising, you need to enlist your network.

You don’t have to be 6’7” to be a hero.

Put your company logo here. Put this ad in the local paper, or a trade magazine.

IDEA: get companies to carry your message with their own advertising.

Example at right shows how this is done.

Looking for someone to love you for your mind?

Be a volunteer, a donor, a leader and help a young person succeed in school and in life. Find how to be involved. Visit the Program Locator section at www.tutormentorconnection.org

A service of the Tutor/Mentor Connection
The World’s Largest Ping Pong ball table.

Every intentional action of a leader, volunteer or network-builder causes a chain reaction that moves every other ball.

What you say can reach people around the world.

WE NEED MORE LEADERS TAKING THIS ROLE
Immediate Impact

Growth of volunteers & $$ and corporate leaders involved

YOU NEED A STRATEGY THAT REACHES A LONG TERM GOAL

With every action have a purpose. Every message is intended to draw needed resources to one or more tutor/mentor programs in Chicago. Teach others to communicate with a purpose.
Leaders Can Connect Their Networks to T/M Programs

We seek musicians, pro athletes, actors, writers, CEOs who will use their public visibility, web sites and media interview opportunities to draw traffic to our web sites and to each of these programs.

With computer generated maps we can identify programs, and neighborhoods where our help is needed, and where our help is being provided. Collectively we can expand the distribution of help from ourselves and others into every neighborhood where our help is needed. Using our visibility, we can keep the spotlight focused on these areas for as long as it is needed.

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Imagine you, or your company or a volunteer in this role

Every time a tutor/mentor leader, Lawyer, faith leader and/or volunteer talks about tutoring/mentoring (via news, a blog, a web site, a conference, or social event), he is building visibility for one or more programs that offer tutoring/mentoring.

If leaders also point to the Tutor/Mentor Program Locator at http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net they also draw attention, volunteers and dollars to all other tutor/mentor programs in the Chicago region.

This is the most important idea we propose. Anyone can connect the people they know with multiple nonprofits doing similar work.
Our strategy is to enlist volunteers and leaders from every industry to mentor kids to careers.

We seek business partners to help in pulling youth to careers, using their own resources, ads, etc.
We can zoom into specific parts of the city, and build overlays showing where tutor/mentor programs are most needed, based on poverty, or poorly performing schools. If there are non-school tutor/mentor programs operating in these areas, we don’t have them in our database.

Banks, Insurance, Walgreens, CVS - businesses in and around Austin.

Note location of 290 Expressway

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While T/MC connects Tutor/Mentor Programs…

Every time one T/M program talks about their own work, they can also be pointing to the map of Chicago and saying, “look for other programs, too”
Using on-line forums, wikis and collaboration tools many can work together to build a better operating system …

Many groups can be learning from shared information, and leading actions that support youth and youth programs in one or many neighborhoods. “We need good programs in every poverty area”
This is a role any leader can take.

The best outcome from this type of collaboration will be the growth of tutor/mentor support teams in many faith groups, accounting, and health care, and in multiple industries, alumni, civic and social groups.

Resulting in a more consistent flow of resources to all tutor/mentor programs in Chicago, and in other cities where this strategy is adopted.

Programs that contribute actions to this strategy can document what they do, in the T/MC OHATS section at http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net/ohats/home.aspx
We can increase resources for all of us, and lower the costs of getting these resources, if multiple programs build this collaboration strategy into their own actions.
Help build This Capacity

If you have ideas to share, these are web sites where you can learn more and get connected:

http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net
http://tutormentor.blogspot.com
http://debategraph.org/mentoring_kids_to_careers

Email tutormentor2@earthlink.net to discuss ideas for collaboration and capacity building among programs, or between cities.