TUTOR/MENTOR LEARNING NETWORK

Tutor/Mentor Programs are one of America’s best forms of civic engagement and service learning.
Young people living in inner-city poverty face challenges that most kids do not have.

- Computer generated maps, like this, can show where poverty is most concentrated and where poorly performing schools are located.
- These are the neighborhoods where kids are being left behind.

See additional maps like this in the map gallery at http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net/mapgallery.html
However, many people who vote and determine public policy do not have a personal experience, or investment in what happens to these kids.

- poverty has not changed in the past 10, 20 years
- quality of life for minorities living in segregated poverty is poor and should be something every citizen is concerned about
- education is the key to improving quality of life and to drawing business and families into the city
- people come out when their lives are personally affected
- if you mobilize thousands of people, you threaten (change) existing powers
- we need to build a broader coalition, including whites and suburbanites, not just minorities
Connecting adults from diverse backgrounds with inner-city kids in one-on-one tutor/mentor programs is a strategy for civic engagement.

Tutor/Mentor Programs are the only form of civic engagement that the T/MC knows of that connects a wide range of workplace adults with minority inner-city kids on a weekly and monthly basis. In many cases these last for years.

These adults model a wider diversity of career possibilities for youth than what adults in their own neighborhoods model. They also open doors to learning and career opportunities for youth they mentor.
The Internet offers opportunities to educate tutor/mentor volunteers about issues of poverty.

• As we help more adults join and stick with tutor/mentor programs, and help these adults bond with kids and learn about poverty, we have the potential to connect volunteers from hundreds of programs into one tutor/mentor connection.

• As the numbers grow in this movement, and as we connect volunteers from multiple programs and multiple cities, in Internet based distance learning and activism projects, we have the ability to become a policy force in Chicago and throughout the country.
Connecting an adult with a youth in a Tutoring/Mentoring program is the BEGINNING of a tutor/mentor program’s work, not the end.
A Tutoring/Mentoring program is where a community can launch a life-long connection between caring adults and young people.
Programs that increase the pool of trained workers, and reduce the costs associated with poverty, should be a priority of any industry leader.
Helping the tutor/mentor bond have a long-term benefit for the child and the adult is the focus of the Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC and the Tutor/Mentor Connection
To succeed each local program must engage its volunteers as learners and leaders.
**T/MC Goal:**
Help inner-city youth reach Careers.

**To SUCCEED**
We must recruit business leaders who will use their resources in **PULLING** Youth to Careers

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**School-Time Programs**

- **3-5 PM Non-School Programs**
  - Pre-K
  - K - 5th
  - 5th - 6th

- **After 5 PM and Weekend Programs**
  - 6th - 8th
  - High School
  - Career Track

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**To SUCCEED**
We must help tutor/mentor program leaders, volunteers, schools and parents be more effective in **PUSHING** Youth to Careers

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**Each industry has reason to invest in this strategy:**
For instance, the HealthCare industry faces severe shortages of healthcare professionals and a high cost of emergency room services in inner-city neighborhoods.
Creating Learning Communities within each industry

These graphics illustrate a goal of engaging members of each industry in a strategy that supports tutor/mentor programs in all poverty neighborhoods of a city like Chicago.
In each industry there are sub groups who each could be building member understanding and support of tutor/mentor strategies.

The Healthcare industry has various prevention and workforce development initiatives that should be working together. Health care needs to take the lead in pulling youth to careers.
Tutoring/Mentoring Model of The Service-Learning Loop

A) volunteer hears about tutor/mentor program
B) volunteer meets with youth
C) volunteer learns from youth and program
D) volunteer shares with co-workers, friends
Each week in a tutor/mentor program this model repeats:

A) Group of volunteers learn

B) Volunteer friends become involved

C) Group of volunteers learn

D) Volunteer friends become donors, volunteers, etc.

E) Volunteer’s friends become involved

F) Volunteer friends become donors, volunteers, etc.

G) Group of volunteers learn

H) Group of volunteers influence business support of tutor/mentor program
If organizations support group learning….

The learning in a tutor/mentor program influences the learning and actions at the other end of the service learning loop.

Companies, churches, universities, can support group learning at this stage.

...volunteers going into programs will be better prepared to contribute to the success of a youth.
Accelerate the learning….increase the resources available

As volunteers move through this loop we have an opportunity to support what they do with kids, and how they influence what business does to support these programs.

...This is the role of the Tutor/Mentor Connection
See how this concept was interpreted by college intern working with T/MC

Interns working with Tutor/Mentor Connection in Chicago have been creating new visual interpretations of these ideas.

Students in high schools and colleges throughout the country could be doing this same work, as part of their own learning and service.

See this and other visualizations at http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/definition-of-issues/ideasanimation
Tutor/Mentors Can Help Youth Grow Through Each Stage of Life

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten to Elementary School
- Jr. High School
- High School
- College &/or Career
Youth living in Poverty Face Greater Barriers to Successfully Reaching Careers

- Lack of positive role models; too many negative models
- Poor nutrition, crowded housing, teen pregnancy
- Single parent families, segregation, racism
- Gangs, Drugs
- Limited education or early employment options
Types of Problems and Outcomes Addressed by Tutor/Mentors

- In-School
  - School Readiness
  - Physical and Mental Challenges
  - Classroom Discipline
  - Academic Skills
  - Leadership Development
  - Communication Skills

- Out-of-School
  - School Readiness
  - Job/Career Readiness
  - Social Skills Development
  - Injurious Behavior & Substance Abuse
  - Teen Pregnancy
  - Racism

Long Term Results
Productive Citizens In a Healthy Community
Our goal is to enlist leaders from different industries who will mobilize volunteers and lead an on-going discussion of how to help kids get to careers.

The arrow represents the service learning loop.
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.
Since 1995 the T/MC has been leading a volunteer recruitment campaign to help every program get volunteers as school starts in September.
Tutor/Mentor Connection Goal:

Focus volunteers on Mentoring-to-Career concepts

Create affinity groups where volunteers from the same industry, but different programs, can meet to share ideas and experiences.

Link volunteers from the same industry, but different cities

Link volunteers from different industries with each other
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- This is one site where people from many places can learn together. [http://debategraph.org/mentoring_kids_to_careers](http://debategraph.org/mentoring_kids_to_careers)
Learn More. Get Connected

- Additional power point essays like this are available at http: www.tutormentorexchange.net
- Learn about the Tutor/Mentor Leadership Conference - http://www.tutormentorconference.org
- Use the tutor/mentor program locator at http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net
- Join a tutor/mentor discussion/meeting - see the list of groups in the Discussion Section of http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com
- Learn ways to provide financial support - http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/donations

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