While young people come to college to learn, learning is supported by their involvement in social fraternities. Can we enhance this process with an on-going “learning-service” program led by the youth themselves? Can such work create a more positive public image for the fraternity system, or for those who take this role?
GOAL: Prepare youth for challenges that await them after High School and College.

In book titled, The Global Achievement Gap, by Tony Wagner, “Seven Survival Skills necessary for Careers, College and Citizenship in the 21st Century” were listed. These are

- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- Collaboration Across Networks and Leading by Influence
- Agility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Entrepreneurship
- Effective Oral and Written Communications
- Accessing and Analyzing Information
- Curiosity and Imagination
All of these skills can be practiced and developed by students and alumni who take on roles with the Tutor/Mentor Connection project. In doing so, these skills can also be taught to youth living in high poverty and attending poorly performing public schools, where these ideas may not be being taught consistently.
Goal of the Tutor/Mentor Connection project.

Students and alumni at each university take ownership of Tutor/Mentor Connection role, focusing on the growth of volunteer-based tutoring and/or mentoring programs in the city where the university is located.
What does this mean? What does a T/MC Do?

The Tutor/Mentor Connection has been operating in Chicago since 1993 and shares its strategies on web sites such as http://www.tutormentorconnection.org

Through a formal learning and networking process, students and alumni at one or more chapters can begin learning what these actions are, while duplicating them in their own city.
As Each Team Learns, It Shares What It is Learning with Teams from other Universities

The actions of the T/MC in Chicago are the model that each team will learn from. As the T/MC focuses on key events in different times of the year, local chapters will focus on the same events and the actions needed to duplicate that event locally.

As the learn from this process, they share what they learn with each other, and with the Chicago T/MC. We learn and improve by helping each other.
How to Start? What’s the First Step?

Set up a ning.com group within http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com. Post link to this from home page, or service projects page, of National web site. Point to this in each publication with small ad, or stories recognizing teams as they get involved.

In this group the Chicago T/MC will coach those who get involved. There is no minimum enrollment, or maximum. We work with who ever chooses to get involved.
Tipping Point

When an individual, or group of individuals accepts that he/she can change what happens in the world, we unleash the creative talent of that person or group of people, to innovate ways to make this happen.
As T/MC Moves through Year, ask “What is T/MC Focusing on, and Why?”

Each quarter T/MC focuses on an event which is timely for that time of year, such as volunteer-recruitment in August, and fund raising in December. However, each event is intended to spur thinking and planning that thinks three, six and nine months into the future.
While focusing on event planning, teams focus on building understanding, and increasing involvement.

- **What is level of poverty and location of poorly performing schools in city**
- **What organizations engage volunteers in one-on-one activities with youth in these neighborhoods**
- **Where is information on these local organizations shared? T/MC Program Locator is sample**
- **How do we get more people to look at this information?**
- **How do we draw people into learning circles where they build understanding of the information**
- **How do we use this understanding to encourage more people to volunteer time, talent or donate dollars to these organizations**
As students learn T/MC concepts, they can learn to communicate those ideas using video, animation, social media, etc.

This shows use of concept map

Strategy Map. Find at www.tutormentorconnection.org in the “about us” section

This shows how intern from IIT in Chicago converted this to flash animation
http://www.tutormentorexchange.net//images/flash/strategymap.swf
In the Ning groups, and on blogs or web sites hosted by each university team, results and lessons learned are shared with others.

Can you take this role?

Can you connect your network to programs in other parts of Chicago? Can you help increase resources for all programs in a geographic region, and thus for YOUR program?
As students and alumni from each university take this role, they build greater visibility and greater involvement in tutor/mentor programs in each city. This reflects positively on all who are involved.
The first step in recruiting leaders is to be one ourselves.

Post this graphic, with a short invitation to join the Tutor/Mentor Connection discussion on Ning.com

Keep this invitation on your web site for at least two years so people have time to incubate the idea and decide to respond. Once a small group forms, their actions will motivate others to join them, and will provide “stories” for you to write about in your own publications.

Visit [http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com](http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com) and [http://tutormentorexchange.net](http://tutormentorexchange.net) to learn more.

Email tutormentor2@earthlink.net to discuss.