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BILL SNYDER, CHAIR

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Kansas Mentors announces mini-grant funding opportunity
Mentoring programs can request funding to support recruitment and retention of mentors

TOPEKA, Kan. — Mentoring, at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they aren't alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges and makes them feel like they matter. Yet one in three young people will grow up without this critical asset.

In reflection of that, Coach Bill Snyder (Kansas State University) and Coach Tom Osborne (University of Nebraska) initiated the annual *Coaches' Challenge* in 2008 with a goal of rallying new volunteers for mentoring programs. During the past seven years, the popularity of the *Coaches' Challenge* has expanded into additional states and conferences. In the spirit of the campaign, Kansas Mentors is seeking projects taking place during the *Challenge* that focus on the recruitment and/or retention of mentors. Specifically, grant applications should focus on:

- 1.) Outreach efforts to recruit more Kansans to meet the state's shortage of mentors and/or;
- 2.) Innovative strategies and training to retain existing mentors and/or;
- 3.) Approaches to ensure young Kansans are receiving high-quality mentoring services.

“Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic and professional situations,” said Cheri Faunce, director of Kansas Mentors. “These funds are a strategic investment to ensure more young Kansans have access to safe and caring adult role models.”

Organizations that are currently engaged in youth mentoring activities and meet the following definition of mentoring are invited to submit applications: “Mentoring is a consistent, structured, stable relationship between youth and a caring role model that involves regular, ongoing and ideally face-to-face meetings and is focused on developing the character, capabilities and confidence of the young person.”

Grant applications are due July 1, 2016. To access the request for proposals, application form and w-9 form, visit www.kansasmentors.org or contact Kansas Mentors by phone at (785) 232-6807 or mentor@ksde.org.

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Kansas Mentors is a statewide mentoring partnership that connects existing mentoring programs with one another and serves as a resource center for communities wishing to start a program. Kansas Mentors works to promote the great mentoring opportunities found throughout the state. We believe that all children deserve a caring adult role model in their lives to support and guide them; our mission is to make this a reality.

