

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kansas State University Coach Bill Snyder Receives 2015 Excellence in Mentoring Award

National recognition for leadership with Kansas Mentors' partnership

Washington DC –In a special ceremony held in Washington, DC last week, Kansas State University Football Coach Bill Snyder was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Mentoring Award by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership in recognition of his longstanding commitment to meeting the mentoring needs of young people in Kansas.

“If you are involved with coaching, you are involved with mentoring. And that mentoring happens both on and off the football field,” said Snyder. “I still have mentors. Probably the most significant thing that anyone can do in our lives is surround ourselves with people who care, and people who want to make our lives better. And young people don’t always know how to reach out and find those people. That is why the role of a mentoring program is so important.”

Coach Bill Snyder became head football coach at Kansas State University in 1989 and retired briefly in the 2005 season, returning in 2009. During his retirement, he spent three years establishing [Kansas Mentors](#), dedicated to connecting existing mentoring programs with one another and serving as a resource center for communities wishing to start a program.

Through his steadfast support, Coach Snyder helped to increase funds in the mentoring sector, raise awareness about the importance of mentoring and elevate the cause. Coach Snyder, along with Coach Tom Osborne of the University of Nebraska, developed the [Coaches' Challenge](#), a recruitment campaign which has recruited tens of thousands of adults to mentor and this year, has first-time participation from the entire Big 12 Conference.

Coach Snyder was joined by the Director of Kansas Mentors, Cheri Faunce, his lovely wife Sharon, and two daughters Shannon and Whitney at the awards reception. If you are interested in starting or strengthening the mentoring program in your community, please contact Cheri Faunce, cfaunce@ksde.org.

Kansas Mentors is a partnership supported by the [Kansas Volunteer Commission](#).

Five individuals were selected for the award: Former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing; Charles R. Burke of the Grable Foundation; Senator Mary L. Landrieu, Coach Bill Snyder, and Burlington Capital Group, LLC founder Michael B. Yanney.

PHOTO CREDIT: *Courtesy MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership*

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About the Kansas Volunteer Commission

The mission of the Kansas Volunteer Commission (KVC) is to empower all Kansans to meet community needs through service. The Commission's primary role is to provide resources and leadership to support local initiatives that tackle community needs. As the state service commission, the KVC directs effective national service programs, leads disability inclusion initiatives, and volunteer management training opportunities. For more information, visit www.kanserve.org.

About MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

MENTOR is the unifying champion for quality youth mentoring in the United States. MENTOR's mission is to close the "mentoring gap" and ensure our nation's young people have the support they need through quality mentoring relationships to succeed at home, school, and ultimately, work. To achieve this, MENTOR collaborates with its Mentoring Partnership Network and works to drive the investment of time and money into high impact mentoring programs and advance quality mentoring through the development and delivery of standards, cutting-edge research and state-of-the-art tools. For more information, visit www.mentoring.org.

About Kansas Mentors

Kansas Mentors is currently partnered with more than 175 mentoring programs serving all 105 Kansas counties. The organization is committed to providing every young Kansan access to a caring and quality mentor through recruitment, awareness and training efforts. For more information visit Kansas Mentors at www.KansasMentors.org.

