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Kansas and Iowa Announce the Annual Coaches' Challenge for Mentoring

The National Mentoring Partnership has identified that one in three youth are in need of a mentor. As a way to bridge the mentoring gap, and in keeping with the spirit of the annual Coaches' Challenge, Kansas and Iowa have issued a friendly wager to see which state can recruit the most new mentors during the college football season. This Mini-Challenge kicks off on September 1st and runs through November 30th, with final results being released during the first week in December.

The intent of the Coaches' Mentoring Challenge is to promote and encourage adults to become mentors. During the last six years, participating states in the Coaches' Challenge have recruited over 35,000 new mentors.

"Both on and off the football field, caring role models are making a tremendous difference in the lives of our young people," said Cheri Faunce, Kansas Mentors Director. "We are excited to continue the legacy of this campaign by co-hosting a Mini-Challenge with Iowa."

"The mentoring effect can improve academic, social and economic prospects for our young people," said Mary Sheka, Iowa Mentoring Partnership Director. "That in turn strengthens our team, our campus, our communities and our country."

Currently there are thousands of young people in Kansas and Iowa, especially young males, in need of a caring role model. In as little as one hour a week, you can offer the support and guidance these young people need to succeed.

The Coaches' Mentoring Challenge is an annual campaign to connect more youth to mentors that began with Coach Bill Snyder at Kansas State University and Coach Tom Osborne at the University of Nebraska in 2008, and grew with the addition of Iowa in 2010. As the popularity of the Coaches' Challenge grows, so does the number of participating states, with the entire Big 12 Conference and several Big Ten schools participating during the 2014 campaign.

Join the Team. Be a Mentor.

In Kansas: Kansas Mentors, www.kansasmentors.org, 785-368-6211

In Iowa: Iowa Mentoring Partnership, www.iowamentoring.org, 1-800-308-5987

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