

Mentorship Options for Youth

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Question: *How do we as a community create more opportunities for youth mentorships?*

Mentorship: A relationship between two people; a mentor and a protégé.

→ Mentor: expert, professional, experienced individual, etc.

→ Protégé: less experienced individual, usually a student.

Mentorships consist of a desire for development. Mentorships provide guidance, model positive behavior, and allow students to obtain valuable real life experiences and knowledge.

Mentorships can pertain to academics, career options, hobbies, college prep, community development, etc. Overall, mentorships are a way for students to get involved with a member of the community and learn new things.

There are many youth that struggle in various aspects and would like someone to support them in this sense, but do not have that opportunity.

Some of these aspects include: School subjects in general, Family issues, Financial issues, English as a second language

- Many youth often feel discouraged when wanting to further their education/passions because they do not feel supported by their educators.
- The youth perceive that there is a significant lack of availability of mentorships, and also difficulty in obtaining them.

Incidentally, New Mexico is ranked 49th in education.

Santa Fe Specifics:

“Santa Fe Public Schools estimates 1,600 people age 18 to 22 within the school district’s boundaries have dropped out of school.”

“About 3 percent of public school students in Santa Fe drop out each year. They do so for a variety of reasons. Some may fall into the wrong crowd, and get into crime and drugs. Some may become teenage parents. Some may become homeless. Some drop out to go to work to support their families.”

Final Thought: If youth are excited about their passions and have opportunities to learn, they will be able to empower themselves to pursue their dreams.

Source:

Engage Santa Fe aims to put dropouts back on track, Feb. 27, 2015, By T.S. Last, Albuquerque Journal
<<http://www.abqjournal.com/547146/news/engage-santa-fe-aims-to-put-dropouts-back-on-track.html>>