

## MONTHLY



## UPDATE

## A Note from Our Team

'Tis the season of thankfulness and joy. As we wrap up this year, we are beyond grateful for this year and the people a part of making these mentorships thrive. While this year was not without challenges, we are moving into 2022 feeling encouraged and motivated. Please know that your support and generosity during this season are helping set us up for an amazing year to come. We hope you all were able to get some time to rest, relax, and unplug during the last week of Thanksgiving and can get some time to celebrate the holiday season ahead.

## 2021: A Year in Review, A Year of Transitions

As 2021 comes to a close, we wanted to take some time to look back at what we've learned, to celebrate the work that our mentors and team have done, and to look forward to the future. This month we caught up with Intentional Mentoring Founder and Program Coordinator, Katie Mae Imhoff-Bebeau, as we reflected upon this past year.

As we look back, we realize how appreciative we are of the people who are a part of Intentional Mentoring. "We have so many amazing people that are behind everything we do from sending encouragements to students and mentors, to on-the-ground mentoring, to coaching and training support, to helping communicate with families and schools, to helping with data and metric collection, to making pairings happen through interviews, to being the students that keep us encouraged

and excited for our next generation," explained Katie. "We could not do what we do without the relationship support within schools, time and energy from our team, and the support, donations, and connections from our community." The people are what make Intentional Mentoring happen, and we could not be more grateful for our flexible, creative, and hardworking team over this past year full of transitions and challenges that we've all faced navigating a pandemic.

Throughout this past year, one of our main challenges has been "how we have heard about the various needs of students coming out of the virtual learning field and moving into in-person school, and also now we have run into so many students and families who would like a mentor," said Katie. We want to

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## Shout-out

Thanks to all of our Intentional Mentoring team who give their time, money, and support to this program!



## Announcements

Giving Tuesday is wrapping up, but it is not too late to give!

Donate online between now and the end of the year to help us head into the new year strong! Your gift is tax-deductible and will go directly to supporting mentor-mentee relationships!



## Online

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make sure that we are "making good matches in the pairing process. Everything this year seems to take just a little bit more time to do when we are trying to be intentional about it all." The transition for students from virtual to in-person learning has been a challenge for students as they reacclimate to the classroom setting while coping with the twists and turns that the pandemic continues to bring. Katie continued, "We are constantly reflecting on the ways this pandemic is opening our eyes to the reality of long-lasting community struggles as the harshness of some of those realities has become even more apparent. We are uplifted and encouraged by the awesome humans our students and mentors are and how their relationships have grown."

In order to help these relationships grow, we have been able to roll out a new training plan for our mentors and coaches that took many months of work, but it has already helped wrap us in many important conversations. As students transition in school, we also are transitioning as an organization by moving from grant-funding to completely volunteer-driven. This transition reminds us how grateful

and encouraged we are for the passion that everyone brings to this organization as we work together to support students.

Moving into the new year, we are going to be working on more wrap-around support for students and mentors as they navigate this year. We will support ongoing training for mentors, continue in-school relationships and work on ways to continue to connect and engage families. "We hope to look a bit deeper into some of our areas of strength to find opportunities to amplify, and also to dig into a few areas that are always difficult to be able to find some innovative solutions," mentioned Katie. "I hope we can look at what is working and what is not to continue to adapt our processes to better meet the needs of those we are here for and improve the support of our mentorships."

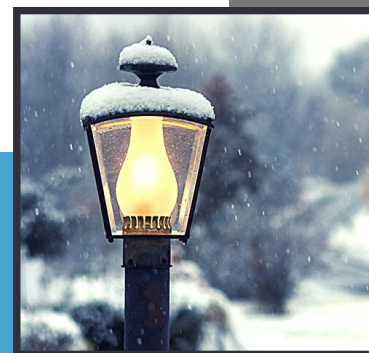
We're so grateful for everyone who's already jumped in to become a mentor for a student -- thank you for your willingness and passion! If you're interested in becoming a mentor, click the link to the right to get started! As students continue to navigate this new normal, more are wanting mentors. Join our team today!

Interested in getting involved with Intentional Mentoring but not sure you have the skill set or the available time for coaching/mentorship? We still value your contributions! Consider monthly community outreach or helping to organize one of our events. Have questions about what help Intentional Mentoring could use or other ideas for ways you think you could help? Email us at [katiemae@intentionalmentoringmadison.org](mailto:katiemae@intentionalmentoringmadison.org).

Contact Us

## Our Mission Statement

*With guidance from coaches, mentors interact with school staff, community members, and families in order to strengthen the support network for students facing adversity.*



## Upcoming Events

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Calendar**

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