

MONTHLY



UPDATE

A Note from Our Team

How have you been reflecting lately? Here at Intentional Mentoring we try to do a lot of reflecting about our processes and systems. We want to make adjustments based off of feedback to continue moving in a positive direction. Since Intentional Mentoring is still a young program, but has been going for over five years, we want to make sure we are listening to our community in order to make appropriate shifts. This month, we are embarking on interviews to gather feedback and insight into the experiences of those in and connected to our program. We are also supporting challenges for our youth to complete with their mentors this summer. Many of our current donations are going directly toward activities for our students. Thank you!

Conversations for Reflection and Change

Recent events have reignited widespread conversations about racism within our community, nation, and world. As we work toward equity, it's important to have an open mind and willingly engage in challenging and real conversations both on a personal level and a community level as we keep in mind our students, who are at the heart of our organization.

This month we touched base with John McCluskey, who has been involved with Intentional Mentoring over the last five years. "What initially drew me to the organization is Katie's heart for mentoring and the idea that all of us have had some form of mentoring in our lives," John reflected. "My initial involvement focused on incorporating Intentional Mentoring as a 501(c)(3) organization and then later joining the board of directors where I continue to focus

on administrative aspects of the organization."

While we as adults continue to reflect, process, and move toward change, we recognize that our students and mentees are doing the same. They also want to find and use their voice as we move forward together. As we talk with people about equity and current events, we remember that "the individual's current experience or past experience can drastically impact how well one can process things that they are seeing first hand, in the media, or on social media. Personally I have seen some very positive movement around thinking about how we can have equity for those who have been marginalized," stated John. "For me, the topic of racism has been something that I have been affected by for the entirety of

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Shout-out

To all students embarking on our **SUMMER CHALLENGES** with their mentors!



Food for Thought

By approaching conversations about race and inequality, caring adults can help **BREAK DOWN HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES & SYSTEMS** that support social injustice and harm youth.

[Click for more info!](#)



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my life, which spans 30+ years as an adopted person who came to the United States from Guatemala as an infant."

As young people grow up and develop a sense of who they are, mentors can play an important role as they listen, learn, and help students to shape a healthy identity where they can explore "what aspects are individuality, what aspects are social or economic, and what role society has in how a person has been taught about their role/identity - regardless of whether it is right or wrong," explained John. "From that point of view, a person can start shaping their identity in a healthy way and learn and improve as they go. I believe we are all a work in progress."

With that, whether it's with mentees or other people in our lives, conversations are important. As we navigate next steps, we should immerse ourselves in diverse communities, see multiple perspectives, and continue the conversation. "I remind myself and others of the fact that everyone brings in different assumption sets and experiences, and I try and look at it from a third perspective view. This helps keep my emotions and convictions in check while aiming at healthy, product-

ive conversations where everyone involved is participating. Additionally, I make a continuous effort to be an active listener in attempt to see what I can learn," said John. "Everyone's experience with [racism, sexism, classism, etc.] varies as well as their level of understanding. Finding healthy ways to move towards those topics with empathy and compassion will help anyone who is truly seeking to make our world and community a better place."

As for us at Intentional Mentoring, John noted, "Our mission...is to interact with school, community, and families in order to strengthen the support network for students facing adversity. To that end, we continue working to make sure that we are having a positive outcome for those in our charge and the larger community, and we feel as an organization we are well-positioned to increase our ability to provide support during this time."

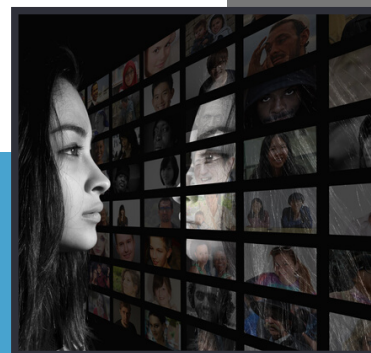
We look forward to continuing to have humble, hard conversations so that we can do what's best for our students and help to move our community forward together.

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.

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.



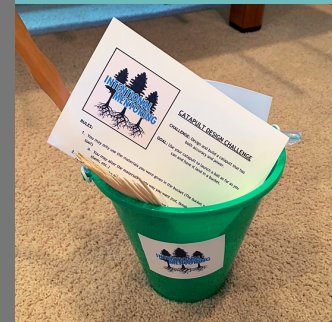
Upcoming Events

Click for Calendar

intentionalmentoringmadison.com/events

Activity Boxes

Mentors, contact Katie about picking up your activity box for you and your mentee!



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