



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

A mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help them discover personal strength and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting relationship. Quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas.

Mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy. In fact, research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were more likely to be enrolled in college, report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, hold a leadership position in a club or team and volunteer regularly in their communities.

Youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to the social, emotional and cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully. Mentors can help young people set career goals and find employment, linking youth to economic opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of our communities.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about mentoring and take part in its beneficial role in encouraging educational achievement, reducing juvenile delinquency, improving life outcomes and strengthening communities. By investing ourselves in the next generation, we are creating a brighter future for us all.

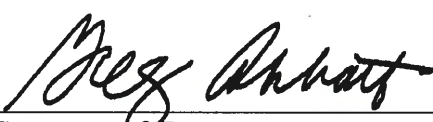
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 2016 to be

Mentoring Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 19th day of January, 2016.


Governor of Texas