

Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month brings awareness to the importance of quality mentoring that promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring and dependable adult who offers guidance, support, and encouragement to a young adult's social, emotional and cognitive development, and helps prepare young adults for day-to-day challenges; and

WHEREAS, local mentorship programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle, Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate, Musical Empowerment, Refugee Community Partnership, Reintegration Support Network, Triangle Bikeworks, Volunteers for Youth and capacity-building agencies like Youth Mentoring Collaborative focus on building strong relationships between mentors and mentees in Chapel Hill and Orange County; and

WHEREAS, by equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, these organizations and the mentors they support plays a pivotal role in career exploration and workforce development, thus driving positive outcomes for our community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the many benefits of mentor-mentee relationships include:

- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Increased high school graduation rates and higher educational aspirations
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug or alcohol use

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs across the state stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources despite physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, despite the progress made to increase mentoring, there continues to be a mentoring gap for young adults in need of mentors; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is an opportunity to raise public awareness of mentoring and the impact it has on building a brighter future.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim January 2023, as

National Mentoring Month

in the Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina and encourage everyone to recognize those who serve as mentors for the important role they play in the lives of young people throughout our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage individuals and organizations such as businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits to become more engaged in mentoring.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF
CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE ELEVENTH OF JANUARY IN THE
YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO.



