



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, we honor caring adult mentors who support young people by showing up for them every day and demonstrating their commitment to helping them thrive; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem and growth of a young person; and

WHEREAS, students who meet regularly with their mentors are more than 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor; and

WHEREAS, youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of adults consider it highly important for young people to have mentors and that same population estimates that only a quarter of youth have the mentors they need; and nearly 9 in 10 feel that more mentoring is needed in our country; and

WHEREAS, research shows that 44 percent of adults are not yet mentoring but are willing to consider it and mentoring is poised for growth. 18- to 29-year-olds are more than twice as likely to cite having had a mentor in their childhood than those over 50; and

WHEREAS, almost half of today's young adults report having a mentor in their youth and those rates appear to have been rising steadily over the past several decades, and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is the time of year where engagement from community members interested in becoming a mentor is highest and an opportunity to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring in communities across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim January 2020 as

Mentoring Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this tenth day of January, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Mangat

Secretary of State