

# Community Involvement/Mentoring at Urbana Middle School & Urbana High School

## Rationale for Proposed Budget Increase:

The mentoring program at Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School has nearly doubled the number of students served with mentors at those two schools in the past five years: from 105 in 2004 to 200 in 2009. The Board of Education added a 10 hour Community Involvement Coordinator position at Urbana High School in the fall of 2007 to provide support for the UHS mentor pairs, a task previously done by Barbara Linder at UMS. The current level of staffing (1.25 FTE) is not sufficient to adequately support the number of mentors we currently have at UMS and UHS. A publication by the USDOE Mentoring Resource Center states: *“Be sure to staff monitoring (of mentor/mentee matches) adequately...Most match coordinators (or equivalent position) will only be able to effectively track and manage about 50 matches at any given time, depending on the other duties they are responsible for. You never want a situation where matches are going unregulated because of staff time constraints. This is extremely risky from a safety perspective and all but ensures that struggling matches will fail to get the help they need to make it to the 12-month mark.”*

I am requesting additional resources to assist in the task of monitoring (providing support to mentors, monitoring attendance, providing on-going mentor training, gathering data, etc) mentor/mentee matches at Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School. The UHS position will also recruit, place and monitor tutors to work with UHS students in need of individual academic support. The additional staff time will result in increased one-on-one support for students at risk of failing and/or dropping out. The summer hours (20 hr) for UHS will be used to monitor and support UHS mentees participating in the Summer Workplace Mentoring Internship program. These students work 40 hr/week for 6 weeks in professional workplaces throughout the community. 14 positions are available for the summer of 2009.

## Personnel expenses:

- **\$11,927** Additional hours for Community Involvement Coordinators, 2 hr/day for 188 days at \$15.45/hour for UMS and UHS plus an additional 20 summer hours for UHS. At UMS these hours would be added to the .5 FTE Administrative Assistant's position. At UHS these hours would be added to the .25 Community Involvement Coordinator's position.
- **\$3,000** Stipends for UHS Teachers to serve as Team Volunteer Facilitators (\$500/team for 6 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade teams) for extended time utilized for regularly scheduled meetings and other tasks related to placing and communicating with mentors and tutors.

**FICA/TRF: \$4,000**

**Supplies & equipment: \$500**

**Contractual Expenses: \$750**

- **\$500** Mentor conference registration & travel
- **\$250** Training fees: expanded training for high school mentors

**Total: \$20,177**

Supporting documentation, data, statistics, and evaluation information re: mentoring & tutoring at Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School is available upon request.

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