Overview

Campus Connections is a therapeutic mentoring program in which University of Northern Colorado students are paired with a youth (ages 11-18) from around Weld County. There is a built-in system (Circles of Trust) that allows for multi-tiered support throughout the night, the mentors spend time supporting mentees through:

- Academic Work; “Supporting School Success”
- Positive Social Skills Learning/Relationship Building
- Activities - Skill Building
- Providing experiences of exposure of life as a college student on a campus

A Typical Night:

3:30pm: Prelab: Mentors & Coahes Arrive; Family Time
4:30pm: Mentees Arrive; “Walk & Talks”
5:00pm: Supporting School Success (SSS)
6:00pm: Dinner
6:30pm: Activity 1
7:30pm: Activity 2
8:20pm: Paperwork & Youth Depart
8:30: “Snaps”

Mentee Recruitment:

- Referral Form
  - Referred by:
    - Probation
    - School/School Counselor
    - Personal
- Intake Process

Mentor Recruitment:

- Application process
  - Information Session
  - Background Check
- Variety of UNC Students:
  - Undergraduates & Graduate Students
  - Majors/Degrees: Psychology, Criminal Justice, School Psychology, Counseling, etc...

Benefits

Mentee Benefits:

- Opportunity to engage with peers within a safe environment
- Assistance with academic challenges, career planning, etc...
- Consistency with having a support system each week
  - Sense of belonging

Mentor Benefits:

- Experience with supporting adolescents from Weld County
- Trainings surrounding:
  - Substance use, identities, gang culture, empathy, bullying,
  - Receiving and giving constructive feedback

Challenges & Future Directions

Transportation
Funding Cycles and University Schedule
Mentor/Mentee Supply & Demand

Capacity Building
Expand Services
Outcome & Effectiveness Research

For more information about this work please contact:
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