

The **2016 Davis 1,000 Mentors for Youth Challenge** will pair volunteers with opportunities to mentor youth to close the opportunity gap for at-risk children in our community.

The Challenge is a joint initiative of the **Davis Joint Unified School District** and the **City of Davis**, partnering with local businesses and community organizations to provide mentor volunteers and opportunities.

Adults from outside the family circle play a critical role in helping a child develop to his or her full potential. Youth from low-income families benefit most from opportunities which grant them access to the social networks that can help them be successful in life.

Having a mentor increases a young person's chance of graduating high school and attending college, avoiding risky behaviors, and developing self-confidence and resilience. Studies show youth with mentors have higher grades, less instances of violence and better school attendance than their non-mentored peers.

The **1,000 Mentors for Youth Challenge** builds upon the Davis community's high-level of volunteerism and commitment to education and youth. Mentoring opportunities exist through internships with businesses, after-school programs, school and classroom volunteering, peer tutoring, recreational and athletic programs, UCD partnerships, and public library and church-sponsored youth programs.

Mentors may be age 15 to senior citizen, working with youth ages 6 to 21.

The **Challenge** will launch a Facebook page in October 2015, with the goal of connecting 1,000 Davis youth with new mentors by December 2016. For more information and to participate, contact 530.304.6360.