

Teammates,

Last month, I joined Governor Jim Pillen, state senators, mentoring organizations, and other state leaders at a [news conference](#) where the Governor proclaimed February as [Nebraska Mentoring Month](#). One of Governor Pillen's top priorities is to invest in Nebraska's children and help provide them with a better future.

As part of the news conference, I was happy to represent DAS and announce the relaunch of the [State of Nebraska Youth Mentoring Program](#). This exciting program, spearheaded by our State Personnel Teammate Engagement and Recognition team, allows state teammates wishing to participate in an approved youth mentoring program to request to adjust their current work schedules up to one hour per week.

I encourage our DAS teammates to strongly consider participating in the program and becoming a mentor in their communities. According to Mentor Nebraska, many mentors say that the rewards they gain from mentoring are as substantial as those for their mentees. Mentors report fun experiences, achieving personal growth, improved self-esteem, and enhanced relationships with their own children, among other benefits. Teammates interested in participating in the program can search for [mentoring opportunities here](#).

The State will also be honoring those teammates participating in the Youth Mentoring Program as part of a new recognition program. You should have received an email yesterday/earlier this week with further details about the program and how you can participate.

If you have any questions regarding the Youth Mentoring Program, please contact our Teammate Engagement and Recognition team at as.teammateengagementandrecognition@nebraska.gov.

I'm excited to see how our Youth Mentoring Program can grow and evolve in the future, and encourage all our DAS teammates to be a mentor for our youth. As Governor Pillen says, "Not every kid needs a mentor, but every kid deserves one."

Regards,

Jason Jackson
Director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services