

Colleagues,

On Wednesday I joined [Governor Jim Pillen](#), mentorship organizations, and public servants who volunteer as mentors for the proclamation of February as Nebraska Mentoring Month. Last year, at the Governor's direction, we re-launched the Public Servant Youth Mentorship Initiative. The Governor's initiative represented a call to action for public servants to serve their communities as youth mentors.

We celebrated those that answered that call by recognizing the State of Nebraska's top youth mentors. Each of the public servants recognized volunteered over 10 hours of mentorship time to youth in their community over the past year. In recognition of their leadership, they received the inaugural [youth mentorship recognition challenge coin](#).

The [State of Nebraska Youth Mentoring Program](#) is spearheaded by our State Personnel Teammate Engagement and Recognition team and allows state public servants wishing to participate in an approved youth mentoring program to receive one hour per week of mentoring leave. I appreciate their outstanding work promoting the mentorship program over the past year. Our team has spent the last year promoting youth mentorship among our colleagues and the community, and it's been an honor to work with Melissa Mayo of [Mentor Nebraska](#) and DeMoine Adams of [TeamMates Mentoring](#) to involve public servants in youth mentorship. We've hosted numerous events throughout the state including in Beatrice, Grand Island, Kearney, [Lincoln](#), Norfolk, North Platte, and Omaha, including during employee recognition events. Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of joining Melissa for a [podcast](#) to discuss the benefits of youth mentoring for our State's youth and adult mentors. These have all been great opportunities to tell the story of the impact that mentorship has on the youth of our State.

I encourage our DAS teammates to strongly consider participating in the program and becoming a mentor in their communities. As Governor Pillen says, "Not every kid needs a mentor, but every kid deserves one."

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

Regards,

**Jason Jackson**  
**Director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services**