

September 16th, 2020

Dear Global Corporate, Business, Government, and Charitable leaders:

Re: Open letter: Youth Mentoring as a core component of a recovery strategy

In many ways we live in borderless times. As youth mentoring leaders on five continents—our call to refocus on growing access to relationships—requires a global response. Together we must increase our efforts to reach out to those young people without a mentor in their life who can provide inspiration and nurture ambitions.

WHY MENTORING?

Mentoring is supported by research as a high-impact, low-cost intervention and can help youth bridge to future supports, succeed in education or progress in employment.

Young people, like the rest of society, are facing monumental changes in their lives. We must ensure that physical distance does not lead to disconnection and disorientation. Employment and education disruptions throughout society have a compounding negative effect on our youngest citizens as they chart their future.

Mentoring relationships ensure continuation of essential emotional support, connection, and stability that a young person needs in a time of uncertainty and upheaval-- sometimes providing the critical lifeline and connection to hope and the future.

WE ARE RESPONDING. WE ARE ADAPTING.

#MentoringDoesNotStop is more than a hashtag, it is an urgent reminder that we cannot stop as our young people need us now more than ever.

We are moving digital and supporting a transition to virtual mentoring in a safe, monitored and secure ways for mentors and mentees to continue their relationships while they may be separated due to COVID-19. We organize online connections and conversations, to connect, learn from each other and, above all, to inspire each other and provide hope. We continue to recruit new mentors to support youth and provide training in quality mentoring.

We are growing connections and inspiring future career paths for a post-pandemic world, building connections between young people and employers opening new career pathways.

THIS CRISIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPAIR THE CRACKS

The crisis has revealed and exacerbated gaps and inequalities. We cannot allow our most vulnerable young people to be left behind yet again.

Governments: We are calling for additional stimulus package to maintain youth-serving nonprofit operations, expand scope to address increasing demands, and stabilize losses from closures throughout the country.

Investors: We are seeking transition funds to support programs to be able to update their mentoring activities, mentor training, and staff capacities to meet youth needs from the covid-19 pandemic.

Systems (Schools and Workforce, etc.): Prioritize relationships because now more than ever young people will need them to get to a sense of consistency, normalcy and ultimately thriving. We can help employees build their own skills by helping young people with skill development.

Community Members: We are calling for more mentors to step forward by reaching outside of their immediate family and making themselves available for a young person.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update. We look forward to discussing how we can collectively adapt through, and post Covid-19, in order to better support and empower vulnerable people in Europe and the world.

Sincerely,



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Community Manager
European Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring

In partnership with:

- David Shapiro, [MENTOR](#) (USA)
- Tessy Ojo, [The Diana Award](#) (UK)
- Arundhuti Gupta, [Mentor together](#) (India)
- John Tan, [Mentoring Alliance Singapore](#)
- Gert van der Merwe, [FutureNow Youth Mentor's Association](#) (South Africa)
- Stacey Dakin, [Canadian Mentoring Partnership](#) (Canada)

