



MENTORING THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10



December has arrived, and so have the frosty mornings and festive events.

It seems like we were celebrating the start of a new year only a few months ago. And now, we are welcoming you to the tenth and final issue of Mentoring This Month for the year 2025!

Even though school will break soon for the holidays, this edition will still highlight some of the information you have come to expect. And, we hope you'll enjoy some of the simple, yet special features that will give you a glimpse of our "MCOCP points of pride" this year. You'll discover some fun

and seasonal outings to do with your mentee and your families too!

Before the hustle and bustle begins, grab some cocoa or apple cider and read all about MCOCP! Please take note of all of the "Mentor Reminders." Then, stay in the know and read or listen to the latest news on general

education topics, TRIO programs, higher education costs, college prep, and more.

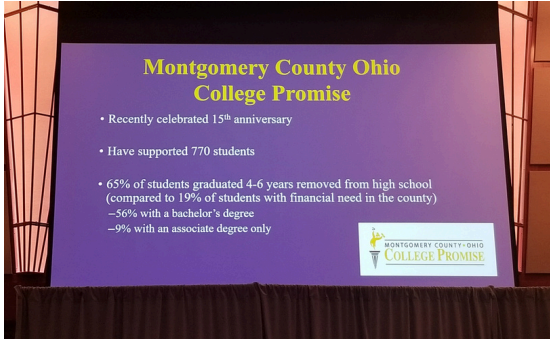
Happy Holidays, Joyeuses Fetes, Felices Fiestas, Frohe Feiertage and Buone Feste to you and your families! See you in 2026!

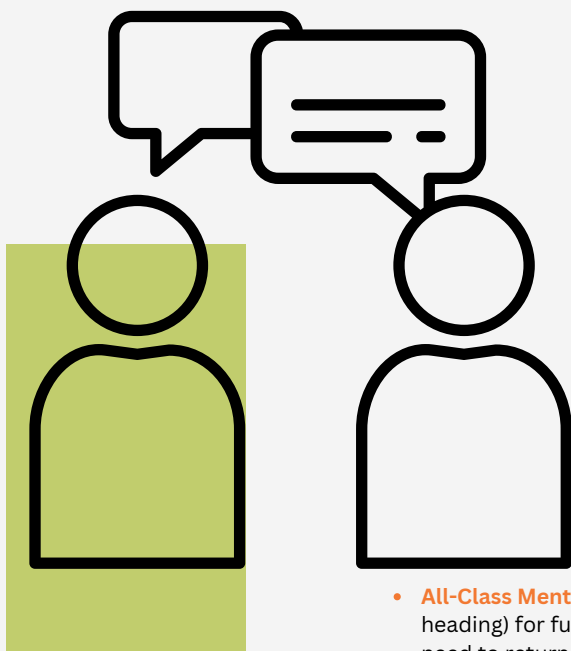


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DECEMBER DISCUSSION TOPICS

- If you received a million dollars, what would you do with it?
- What do you like most about the Christmas holiday and/or this time of year? Why?
- What is your favorite holiday movie or television program?
- How do you define respect? How do you earn respect?

(Sources for some questions: *Family Talk* game and Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves® conversation starter cards.)

For more information about the On Our Sleeves® initiative and other resources, visit:

- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation Conversation Starter Resources](#)
- [Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves](#)

- **All-Class Mentors:** Please be sure to download the [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (under the Resources heading) for future use. It can also be found in a [PDF](#) format. Remember, if you transport your mentee, you'll need to return a copy of this form -- **prior to each event** -- to Jenni and/or Kyra. It will be included in your mentee's files.
- **All-Class Mentors:** During the upcoming holiday breaks and semester exams, you're not expected to meet with your mentees. In addition, remember that per the *MCOCP Volunteer Mentor Handbook* (page 6), small gifts to acknowledge student achievements or for the holiday are permissible, but not expected.
- **All-Class Mentors:** For most schools, the end of the semester and second quarter will be before the holiday break or shortly after school resumes. Please strongly encourage your mentees to study early for their exams.
- **All-Class Mentors:** MCOCP is on [LinkedIn](#)! This is a friendly nudge and plea to ask those of you on this platform to follow us and like and share our posts. Our following is growing, but we'd love to get additional exposure in your networks! With any luck, more visibility may also help with mentor recruitment and connect us with potential donors.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Please remind your mentees that if they hope to be inducted into the National Honor Society during high school, they must remain active in various school, community, or faith-based groups or organizations in order to be eligible. Additionally, participation in these extracurricular activities will help to build their activities resume when they are applying to college or other opportunities.
- **All-Class Mentors:** **The MCOCP Annual Campaign: Helping Students Thrive** is underway and will end on 12/31/25. If you or someone you know is interested in expanding your or their charitable giving to another worthy cause, please consider contributing by or before the end of this year's campaign. Ninety percent of each donation helps to support students through direct services and scholarships. You can contribute at the following link and click the [Donate Now](#) button.
- **All-Class Mentors:** GEM (Goal Everyone Matters) Project Dayton is sponsoring its 2025-26 [GEM Student Art Contest for Suicide Prevention](#). Students in grades 6-12 can participate. If your mentee is an artist, encourage him or her to submit an original piece around this year's theme of resiliency and the importance of well-being. The contest runs until 1/12/26. More information can be found at the link above.
- **All-Class Mentors:** It's mentor recruitment time! We will be selecting our 16th Cohort MCOCP Scholars at the end of February 2026. If you know of someone who may be interested in serving as a mentor for this incoming group of mentees, please let Patrick know. We can't start too early in the mentor recruitment process.
- **Sophomore Mentors:** Recently, sophomores across Montgomery County had the opportunity to visit the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) and explore the school and its programs as an option for them during their junior and senior high school years. **Please note that MCOCP students can apply and attend MVCTC (or their school's equivalent), if admitted. At present, we have several program participants enrolled at MVCTC; matriculation there does not jeopardize their participation in MCOCP. As long as they meet our partner colleges' admission requirements, they remain eligible for the scholarship.** The only change would be how your weekly meetings would be conducted -- whether you'd meet on site or elsewhere.
- **Junior Mentors:** Save the date for MCOCP's annual College Promise Scholar Night event at Wright State University! It will be held on 2/26/26 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming for mentees, their families and mentors.
- **Senior Mentors:** By now, all seniors should have completed the FAFSA and college applications. As acceptance letters roll in, MCOCP scholars should let Jenni know where they have been admitted. **For Bowling Green State University acceptances, students should contact Jenni as soon as possible.** Further, they should be checking their emails and college portals regularly for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation.
- **Senior Mentors:** The Dayton Foundation's [ScholarshipCONNECT](#) opens on 12/17/25 for the 2026-27 academic year. The deadline for application submission is 3/6/26.



December Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

Believe it or not, there's more to December than the known, celebrated holidays! Besides the typical seasonal sights and events, December is also Made in America Month, National Stress-Free Month, and Thank You Month. Oh, and winter officially begins on 12/21 (it would seem that Mother Nature missed that memo)! Here are some other interesting ways to ring in December:

- National Chocolate Covered Anything Day, 12/16/25
- Wright Brother's Day, 12/17/25
- National Hard Candy Day, 12/19/25
- National Card Playing Day, 12/28/25
- Still Need to Do Day, 12/29/25
- Bacon Day, 12/30/25



OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some **suggested** ideas for activities to do with your mentee in the coming weeks. **Note that outside events aren't mandatory, but rather optional.** The following searchable websites provide a more comprehensive listing:



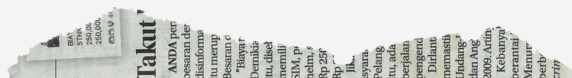
- [Dayton Local.com](http://DaytonLocal.com)
- [Dayton Daily News Dayton.com](http://DaytonDailyNewsDayton.com)
- [Downtown Dayton Partnership](http://DowntownDaytonPartnership)
- [Destination Dayton](http://DestinationDayton)
- [Dayton 937](http://Dayton937)
- [Dayton Metro Library](http://DaytonMetroLibrary)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](http://FiveRiversMetroParks)
- [DO STEM Near Me](http://DOSTEMNearMe)

- Scene 75 Entertainment Center, Dayton – Ongoing
- Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Dayton – Ongoing
- National Museum of the United States Air Force – Ongoing
- Skateworld of Vandalia or Skateworld of Kettering – Ongoing
- Level Up Pinball Bar (and Arcade) – Ongoing
- Great Escape Game – Ongoing
- CozyMelts – Ongoing
- Carillon Historical Park – Ongoing
- [Dayton Ohio Scavenger Hunt: Dayton's Soaring Heights](http://DaytonOhioScavengerHunt) – Ongoing
- [Scrooge! The Musical](http://ScroogeTheMusical) at LaComedia Dinner Theatre – Now through 12/28/25 (See the link for various matinee and evening times.)
- [A Carillon Christmas](http://ACarillonChristmas) – Now through 12/30/25, Sundays-Thursdays (5-9 p.m.) and Saturdays-Sundays (5-10 p.m.) See the link for ticket information. As an added bonus, **watch** the short film [A Very Carillon Christmas](http://AVeryCarillonChristmas).
- [The Legendary Lights of Clifton Mill](http://TheLegendaryLightsOfCliftonMill) – Now through 12/30/25, 5-9 p.m. nightly (Hours are 6-8 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Christmas.)
- [Kings Island WinterFest](http://KingsIslandWinterFest) – Now through 12/31/25
- [Deck the Diamond](http://DecktheDiamond) at the Dayton Dragons' Day Air Ballpark – Now through 1/3/26., 6-9 p.m. nightly.
- [Skate at RiverScape MetroPark](http://SkateatRiverScapeMetroPark) – Now through February



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



MCOCP Milestones

General & Miscellaneous Education

- "Student Test Scores Keep Falling. What's Really to Blame?" (*Education Next*)
- "The Surprising Reason Kids Can't Seem To Read Anymore" (*HuffPost*)
- "I Was an 'A Student'—Until I Realized Grades Don't Measure Learning" (*EdSurge*)

First-Generation College Students

- "How TRIO Turned a Distant Dream into a Plan" (*The EDU Ledger, formerly Diverse Issues in Higher Education*)

College Access & College Success

- "Fewer High School Students Aspire to Bachelor's Degrees, Hitting 20-Year Low" (*The EDU Ledger, formerly Diverse Issues In Higher Education*)

College Value & Affordability

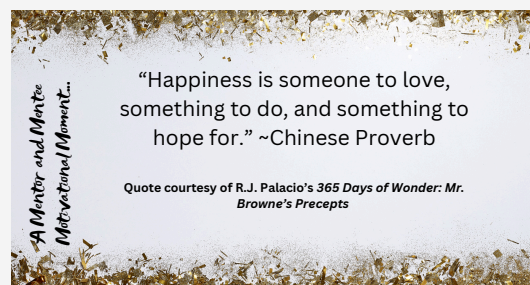
- "What today's students really want — and what that means for higher ed" (*Higher Ed Dive*)
- "Study Finds Two-Thirds of Public Universities Unaffordable for Low-Income Students" (*The EDU Ledger, formerly Diverse Issues In Higher Education*)
- "After years of quietly falling, college tuition is on the rise again" (*The Hechinger Report*)

College & Career Readiness

- "The End of Either/Or: Preparing Students for College — and Career" (*EdSurge*)
- "OPINION: Higher education must help shape how students learn, lead and build the skills employers want most" (*The Hechinger Report*)

Podcasts & Interviews

- "Shaping Community, Finding Your Fit" (*Admissions Beat*)
- "Channel Your Main Character Energy" (*Admissions Beat*)
- "Scholarship, Sweat & Strategy: Winning at College Through Athletics" (*Application to Admission*)



- [PrepSearch](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)

