



MENTORING THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2026
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2



Even though February is the shortest month of the year, the days are growing a little longer. There is still much to see, do and explore in its 28 days. It is also known as "heart month," a time to commemorate Valentine's Day and American Heart Month, stay connected to one another, and reflect on love for humanity (Agape) and love among friends (Philia).

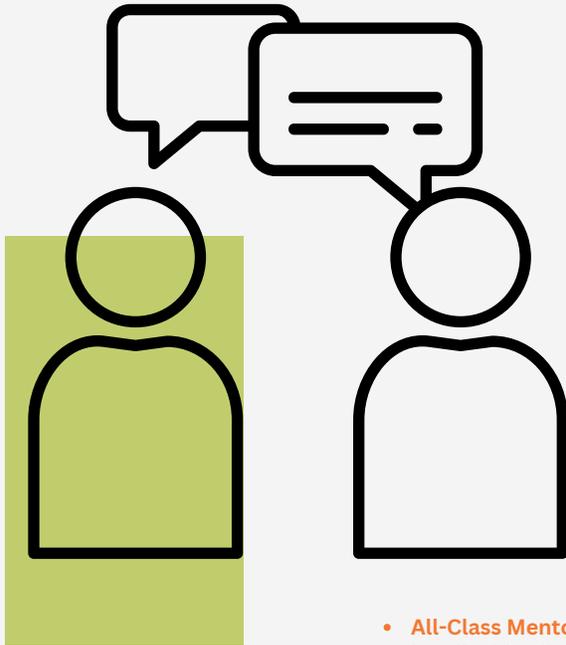
Inside This Issue...

Discussion Topics	2
Mentor Reminders	2
Fun Facts	3
Outside of School	3
News	4
Motivational Moment	4
College Access Corner	4

As you continue to support and uplift your mentees through the remaining winter months and academic school year, remember that the MCOCP staff is here to offer various resources to keep scholars engaged and encouraged. This issue is a wonderful place to start! From icebreakers and conversation starters to motivational quotes and reminders, you'll find that and more. Be sure to check out some ideas for things to do and the various articles and podcasts focused on college costs and value, admissions; and college majors, completion, and career readiness.

Mentors, your heart for the MCOCP community is unmatched. Never doubt your kindness and generosity; you are having an impact on your mentee's life. Thank you for showing up for them week after week. This work isn't possible without you!





FEBRUARY DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Where do you like to go for fun? What makes it fun?
- If you had to live on an island by yourself, what three things would you bring and why?
- Do you see the cup half full or half empty? Why?
- If you could have chosen your own first name, what would it be and why?

(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](#)

More Engagement Opportunities (from the Q3 Mentor Roundtable):

- Task your mentee with interviewing you.
- Discuss weekend plans.
- Read an interesting book or article together and discuss it.
- Play a quick round of a board game.



- **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:** The annual MCOCP pizza parties for mentors and mentees will return in March and April. As soon as schools are scheduled, those details will be forthcoming, and you can share the date and time with your mentees. Stay tuned!
- **All-Class Mentors:** If your mentee needs extra help with homework assignments, remember that the Dayton Metro Library offers assistance through their [Homework Help Centers](#) at various local branches. See the link for locations, days and times.
- **All-Class Mentors:** As Q3 moves along, please continue helping your mentees think about how they can reach their goals for the year. This free online [tool](#) is a great way to assist them with calculating their GPAs.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Please ensure that you're not meeting on Presidents' Day in February, Spring Break, or other days when school is not in session.
- **All-Class Mentors:** We will be selecting our 16th Cohort MCOCP Scholars this month. If you know someone who may be interested in serving as a mentor for this incoming group of mentees, please let Patrick know.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Sinclair Community College's STEM Open House will be held on 3/28/26 from 9-11 a.m. in Building 12. Students can explore 93 STEM majors and learn more about careers in aviation, manufacturing, cybersecurity, engineering, automotive, and more. There will also be tours of classrooms and labs and opportunities to interact with faculty. Interested students should RSVP [here](#).
- **Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Mentors:** "Innovations of our Past and our Future," a summer camp sponsored by Sinclair Community College's Women in STEM (WiSTEM), will take place Monday, 6/8/26 - Friday, 6/12/26. The camp is open to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. [Registration](#) is now open. The \$10 fee covers registration, daily lunch and a T-shirt. Questions? [Email](#) or call 937.512.4861.
- **Sophomore Mentors:** **Please note that MCOCP students can apply and attend MVCTC (or their district's equivalent) during their junior and senior years, 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 -- on site or elsewhere.
- **Senior Mentors:** Sinclair's Spring Visit Day is on 2/16/26 (Presidents Day) from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Building 12, Dayton Campus. Prospective students should [register](#).
- **Senior Mentors:** As college acceptance letters roll in, MCOCP scholars should let Jenni know where they have been admitted. Further, they should be checking their emails and college portals regularly for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation.
- **Senior Mentors:** All seniors should've received a mailing regarding Bowling Green State University's Thompson Working Families Scholarship Program. **If a College Promise Scholar plans to attend BGSU, he or she must complete this scholarship application. The deadline for submission is 2/19/26.** More details can be found [here](#).
- **Senior Mentors:** The Dayton Foundation's [ScholarshipCONNECT](#) is now open for the 2026-27 academic year. The deadline for application submission is 3/6/26 by 4 p.m. **Note that information from the FAFSA will be needed for the application.**

ATTENTION Junior Mentors:

MCOCP's annual College Promise Scholar Night event will be held on 2/26/26 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Wright State University. Mentees, their families and mentors should have received additional event details. **All mentees are expected to attend so that they can meet and interact with our college partners.** Families and mentors are invited to attend as well. **Attendees must [register](#) at the link or call 937-225-9957 by or before 2/12/26.**

February Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

Created by historian and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926, Black History Month turns 100 this year! What began as a week of recognition later expanded to a month in 1976. February is also known as Chocolate Lover's Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Are you looking for other ideas to celebrate in February? See below.



- Presidents Day, 2/16/26
- Mardi Gras, 2/17/26
- International Tug of War Day, 2/19/26
- National Sticky Bun Day, 2/21/26
- National Banana Bread Day, 2/23/26
- National Tooth Fairy Day, 2/28/26

Love
Chocolate



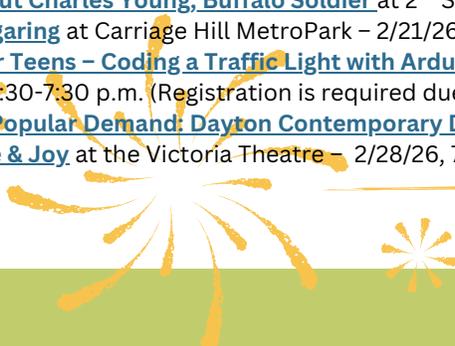
OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

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:



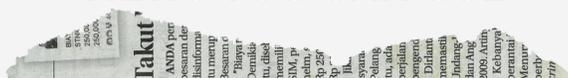
- [Dayton Local.com](#)
- [Dayton Daily News Dayton.com](#)
- [Downtown Dayton Partnership](#)
- [Destination Dayton](#)
- [Dayton 937](#)
- [Dayton Metro Library](#)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](#)
- [DO STEM Near Me](#)

- 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](#) – Ongoing
- [Skate at RiverScape MetroPark](#) – Now through February
- [Teens \(Learn To\) Chill Out!](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 2/17/26, 4-5 p.m. (Registration is required due to limited spaces.)
- [Open House at Patterson Homestead](#) – 2/21/26, Noon-4 p.m.
- [The Adventure Summit](#) at Wright State University – 2/21/26, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- [Learn about Charles Young, Buffalo Soldier](#) at 2nd Street Market – 2/21/26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- [Maple Sugaring](#) at Carriage Hill MetroPark – 2/21/26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- [STEAM for Teens – Coding a Traffic Light with Arduino](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 2/26/26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Registration is required due to limited spaces.)
- [Black By Popular Demand: Dayton Contemporary Dance Company Celebrates Black Artistry, Resilience & Joy](#) at the Victoria Theatre – 2/28/26, 7:30 p.m. and 3/1/26, 4 p.m.



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- [“Pell Grants risk depletion over looming shortfall” \(USA Today\)](#)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- [“College completion rate holds steady above 61%” \(Higher Ed Dive\)](#)
- [“How parents and students are deciding which college to choose in an ever-changing landscape” \(PBS News Hour\)](#)

Admissions

- [“Colleges ease the dreaded admissions process as the supply of applicants declines” \(The Hechinger Report\)](#)
- [“6 Disruptive Trends Reshaping College Admissions And The Future Of Workforce Training” \(Forbes\)](#)

College Value & Affordability

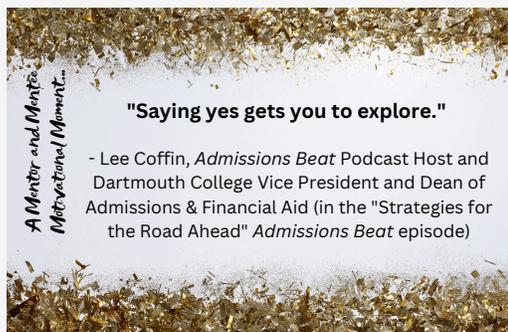
- [“Stop Asking If College Is Worth It. Make It Experiential.” \(The Evollution\)](#)

College & Career Readiness

- [“Students worried about getting jobs are adding extra majors” \(The Hechinger Report\)](#)
- [“OPINION: Too many college graduates are stranded before their careers can even begin. We can’t let that happen” \(The Hechinger Report\)](#)

Podcasts & Interviews

- [“Faith, Facts & First-Gen Futures: Charlain Bailey on College Planning That Works” \(Application to Admission\)](#)
- [“College Is Opportunity” \(Admissions Beat\)](#)
- [“Strategies for the Road Ahead” \(Admissions Beat\)](#)



- [Understanding the Choices Foundation](#)
- [The Scholarship Workshop](#)