



MENTORING THIS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2026
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7



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"Mentoring is as much an honor as it is to be mentored."

In a recent episode of a hit daytime soap opera, Anita Dupree spoke those words to Noah Rollins. Although these are fictional characters, the words don't have any less meaning. They ring true in genuine mentoring relationships when both the mentor and mentee value the bond and rapport they are building with one another. We trust that this mentoring experience will be a rewarding and fulfilling experience — one of many great honors — for our mentors and MCOCP scholars.

Well, we're off and running! By the time you receive this edition, many of the MCOCP scholars will have been in school for nearly a month. Hopefully, you have already had your first meeting with your mentee, and maybe more. For those few districts starting after Labor Day, now is the perfect time to reach out to the school liaison to schedule your first mentor-mentee meeting. If you have difficulty making the initial connection, please let the school liaison or the MCOCP staff know.



On a related note, back-to-school communication was sent out via the USPS to your homes in mid-August. It included a letter, school start dates, school calendar, and an MCOCP liaison contact list. Please contact Patrick, Jenni or Kyra if it didn't arrive in your mailbox.

Contact Us:

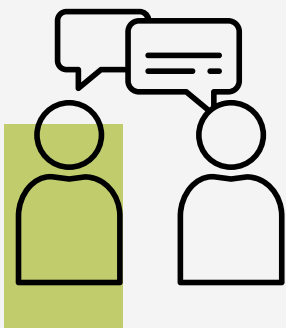
- [Patrick Gill](#), executive director, 937.225.9922
- [Jenni Guanciale](#), program coordinator, 937.225.9957
- [Kyra Robinson](#), student and mentor engagement associate, 937.225.9935

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The cooler temperatures signal to us that fall is on the horizon! While enjoying the change in seasons, take a moment to catch up on the "Mentor Reminders" and "Outside of School" segments. On page four, you'll find trending news on general education topics, first-generation college students, the college search process, career readiness, AI, and more.

As you settle in and rekindle your relationships with your mentees or begin anew, remember that the little things matter – a listening ear, encouraging word, a smile, or a quick text to say hello. Your presence is more important than you know, and you are not only investing in these young people as human beings, but also in their potential. That's important, mission-driven work!



The "MCOCP in the News...Caught Doing Good" form can be found [here](#) or on the MCOCP [website](#) under the Resources heading. If your mentee has noteworthy news, please be sure to submit your nominations.

Please download the [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (under the Resources heading) or in [PDF](#) format. **Return a copy** of this form – **prior to transporting your mentee to any event** – to Jenni and/or Kyra.

MCOCP is on LinkedIn! Please [follow](#) us, like and share our posts, and encourage your network to do so too!



SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What is the best thing about school? What do you like least about school?
- What career do you hope to pursue once you graduate high school? What makes this career interesting to you?
- In what ways are you generous? Could you be more generous, and if so, how?
- What is your favorite board or card game?

(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:

- The first of four quarterly Mentor Roundtable Zoom sessions will be held on Monday, 9/28/26 at 3 p.m. These meetings aren't mandatory but rather a way to stay connected with fellow mentors and are an opportunity to learn MCOCP updates, ask questions, share ideas and fellowship. Patrick sent an email with the meeting [link](#) and additional information. **Please mark your calendar with the remaining dates:** Wednesday, 11/4/26; Tuesday, 2/9/27; and Monday, 4/12/27. All meetings begin at 3 p.m.
- Did you know that the Dayton Metro Library provides Student Success Liaisons and volunteers to assist K-12 students? Student Success Centers are available in select branches. No appointment is needed! More details can be found [here](#).

Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Mentors:

- Kyra, Jenni and Patrick plan to visit with underclassmen (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) at their respective schools during the month of October for MCOCP's annual drive-through, check-ins. Mentors don't need to be present; this is simply a quick way to touch base and see how students are doing.

Junior Mentors:

- Patrick has emailed biennial background check renewal details to you. By now, Sterling Volunteers should have notified you. Please complete the process as soon as possible. If you did not receive the email from Sterling Volunteers, check your spam folder or reach out to Patrick.
- Miami University is hosting two [RedHawk Preview Days](#) on Saturday, 9/26/26 and Friday, 10/23/26. Registration is open now. See the link above for more information. Per the website, the September date allows prospective students to explore the academic and student life experiences, while the October date is designed for those who want to customize their visit based on individual interests.

Senior Mentors:

- Currently, Jenni is visiting with seniors (Class of 2027) as they begin the college application process. Please tell your mentees that their high school liaisons will notify them when she will be in their building. **Let them know that it is absolutely critical that they attend this meeting to learn about various Fall deadlines they must meet and other important information.**
- Any seniors interested in attending Miami University **MUST** attend the Fall Bridges overnight event at the university. It is **mandatory**. Jenni will share more details with the senior scholars, but the [application](#) is already open. **NOW** is the time for them to start completing the application, which is due 9/21/26. Round-trip transportation will be provided from Dayton **ONLY** during the third session, 11/8/26-11/9/26. Questions? Reach out to Jenni for more information.
- The 2027-2028 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open on 10/1/26. Students AND their guardian/parent should [create](#) their individual FSA IDs **NOW** so that they will have them prior to completing the FAFSA. Please remind your scholar about this crucial step.
- The 2026 University of Dayton Flyer Promise Scholars College Promise Overview Night will be held on Thursday, 10/22/26 from 6-8 p.m. Students can learn more and register at this [link](#). Questions? Contact [Seth Jones](#), Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admission.



September Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

It's September, and that means it is National Hispanic Heritage Month and National School Success Month. And, we celebrate the last summer holiday of the year and usher in fall on 9/22/26. Don't fret! September doesn't disappoint with many other unique days.

National Red Velvet Cake Day, 9/18/26

International Day of Peace, 9/21/26

International Day of Sign Language, 9/23/26

National Chocolate Milk Day, 9/27/26

National Good Neighbor Day, 9/28/26

Time for Yoga Day, 9/30/26

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

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 program and event listing:

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

- [Scene 75 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
- [Dayton Wing Week](#) at various local restaurants – 9/13/26 – 9/20/26 (Check restaurants for business hours.)
- [Autumn Fest](#) at Learning Tree Farm – 9/19/26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- [Hispanic Heritage Festival](#) at RiverScape MetroPark – 9/19/26, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
- [The Foodbank is at the Market](#) at 2nd Street Market – 9/26/26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- [Teen DIY: Art Lab](#) at the main Dayton Metro Library branch – 9/26/26, 2-4 p.m.
- [Free Self-Defense Class](#) at Roderer Shoe Center – 9/27/26, 10-11 a.m.

2026 Celebrating Success Dinner

Recently, MCOCP welcomed the 16th cohort, their families, mentors and community members to its annual dinner.



Right to Left: MCOCP 16th Cohort, MCOCP alumnus Carlos Estrada Sanchez, Sinclair President Steven L. Johnson, MCOCP scholars and guests, and MCOCP Executive Director Patrick Gill

MONTGOMERY COUNTY-OHIO
COLLEGE PROMISE

★★★★★

Testimonial

"Thank you for everything that you have done to help me succeed. ... Without this program, I would have never been able to dream of obtaining my degree, my master's, or a position outside of the factory work like my parents had. Thank you for all the support and guidance you have given me. I will forever be grateful."

-Misty Ortiz, MCOCP alumna

"Helping dreams of attending and graduating from college become a reality."

"We are MCOCP: Promise Made, Promise Fulfilled, Graduates Produced."

BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- ["Do enrollment management strategies lead to high debt for poor families?"](#) (Higher Ed Dive)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- ["How can colleges teach students to have challenging conversations?"](#) (Higher Ed Dive)
- ["Why College Degrees Matter in the Age of AI"](#) (EdSurge)
- ["OPINION: The real college crisis isn't enrollment. It's completion, and it's time to start asking why"](#) (The Hechinger Report)

First-Generation College Students

- ["I'm a first-generation college student who refused to quit"](#) (AOL Opinion; originally published in the Louisville Courier Journal)

Admissions

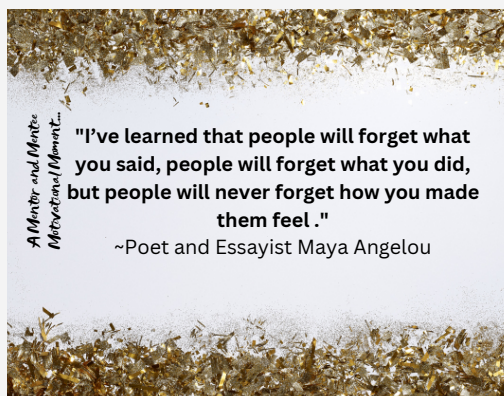
- ["Rebuilding Trust In Higher Education Starts By Changing College Admissions"](#) (Forbes)
- ["A New Digital Divide: College Search in the Age of Social Media"](#) (The 74)
- ["I Help High School Seniors Apply To College. There's A New Trend That Troubles Me."](#) (HuffPost)

College & Career Readiness

- ["Why the liberal arts can help young Americans prepare for the era of AI"](#) (CBS News)
- ["The skills people still perform better than AI, according to workplace experts"](#) (AP News)

Podcasts & Interviews

- ["Getting In Is Just the Beginning - Harlan Cohen on What Really Matters"](#) (Application to Admission)
- ["The Endlessly Divisive SAT"](#) (College Matters from The Chronicle)



- [Harlan Cohen YouTube](#)
- [TuitionTracker](#)