MONTGOMERY COUNTY
OHIO COLLEGE PROMISE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MENTORING THIS MONTH



OCTOBER 2026
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8

Inside This Issue...

SNEAK PEEK

Discussion Topics	2
Mentor Reminders	2
Fun Facts	3
Outside of School	3
MCOCP Testimonial	3
Read All About It	3
News You Can Use	4
Motivational Moment	4
College Access Corner	4

As the fall turns and October arrives, we realize that 25% of the school year is just about over! How did that happen? As some seasoned folks might say, "time is filled with swift transition." Before we know it, our clocks will change, the days will keep getting shorter, the holidays will be here, and the first semester will be a memory!

But, in the meantime, take a moment to pause and reflect on the changing seasons — both literally and figuratively — and the impact you're already having on your mentee. It doesn't take long for you to make a difference! Hopefully, our MCOCP scholars are settling into the rhythm of the school year. Your time, support and investment in them is helping them maintain the momentum they need to be successful on their academic and personal journeys. Continue to be that bridge, listening ear, and new perspective for them. And, if they cross your mind, send a quick text or message to them. You never know how that note may alter the course of their day — and yours too!

With the first quarter ending for most school districts sometime in mid-to-late October, report cards will be issued soon. As a reminder, the school liaisons will email the grades to us for review, we make notes on the grade reports, and scan and email them to you. While simple for the most part, it can take a little bit of time for us to process approximately 200 report cards on our end. Rest assured, they will be forthcoming and delivered to your inbox.



Patrick, Jenni and Kyra have enjoyed reconnecting with all of the MCOCP scholars as they visit them this month in the annual "Drive-through, Mini Check-ins." They've had the chance to chat a bit and bring some sweet goodies to them. A few more remain before month's end.

As you take a few moments to peruse this issue, don't forget to pay attention to the reminders. The news segment features articles and podcasts on financial aid, first-generation college students, admissions, and college and career readiness. You'll also hear from some surprise MCOCP "celebrity" columnists among you too!

This MTM issue has lots of treats, no tricks, and a few "boo-ti-ful" and "spook-tacular" things to experience and do. Enjoy!

Contact Us:

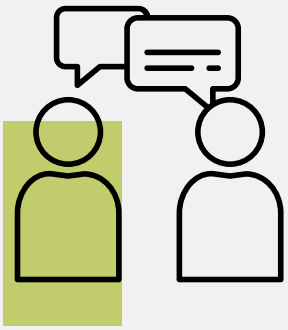
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- Jenni Guanciale, program coordinator, 937.225.9957
- Kyra Robinson, student and mentor engagement associate, 937.225.9935

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN





OCTOBER DISCUSSION TOPICS

- If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be? Why?
- What is the thing you like to do most?
- What is your favorite restaurant? What is your favorite meal at that restaurant?
- What kind of compliment means the most to you? How do you lift others' spirits?

(**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





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!

All-Class Mentors:

- The **Q2 Mentor Roundtable Zoom session** will be held on Wednesday, 11/4/26 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 these remaining dates:** Tuesday, 2/9/27; and Monday, 4/12/27.
- If your mentees hope to be inducted into the National Honor Society, remind them to remain active in various school, community, or faith-based groups or organizations in order to be eligible. Additionally, participation in these extracurricular activities will build their activities resume, which can be helpful when completing college applications.
- For students who need financial assistance with driver's education courses, there is a website with a searchable database of driving schools that offer the training and scholarships. These grants are funded by the Drive to Succeed program and are available throughout Ohio.
- GEM (Goal Everyone Matters) is sponsoring its 2026-27 GEM Art Contest. Greater Dayton 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 ending the stigma around mental health. The contest runs until 1/13/27. More information can be found at the link above.
- The Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) Greater Dayton Area College Fair will be held at Wright State University's Nutter Center on Tuesday, 10/27/26, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Free to the public, attendees must register. Once on the site, use the drop-down menus to search under Ohio and then by date of the event.
- Come out and see what Central State University has to offer at its annual Fall College Preview Day, held on Saturday, 10/31/26. It runs from 9 a.m. until noon. Register here.

Junior Mentors:

- Patrick has emailed biennial background check renewal details to you, and 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.
- One Miami University RedHawk Preview Day, Friday, 10/23/26, remains. See the link for registration and more information. Per the website, this session is designed for those who want to customize their visit based on individual interests.

Senior Mentors:

- The 2027-2028 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is open. Students AND their guardian/parent **MUST** create their individual FSA IDs, which are required in order to complete 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.

October Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

Are you ready to celebrate the sights, smells and tastes of fall? Beyond Halloween, October is the month to immerse yourself in all things autumn! It is also known for several important causes: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Check out the list below for other interesting things to do.



National Youth Confidence Day, 10/20/26
Clean Up the Earth Day, 10/22/26
United Nations Day, 10/24/26
World Pasta Day, 10/25/26
National Pumpkin Day, 10/26/26
National Candy Corn Day, 10/30/26



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
- Cowvins Corny Corn Maze at Young's Jersey Dairy – Now through 11/2/26, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
- Chocolate Fest at the Greene County Fairgrounds – 10/17/26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Make A Difference Day at various Five Rivers MetroParks – 10/24/26, 9 a.m.-noon
- Trick or Treat & Pumpkin Decorating at 2nd Street Market – 10/25/26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- STEAM for Teens – Meet the Animals at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 10/29/26, 4-5 p.m. See the link for registration.
- Halloween Scavenger Hunt at Hidden Valley Orchards – 10/31/26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.





Patrick, Kyra and their Dayton Foundation colleague, Marianne Requarth, were guest columnists for the Dayton Daily News Ideas & Voices segment recently. Read their articles below or on The Dayton Foundation website.

"Opinion: Mentorship with College Promise an investment in the future of Ohio"

"Opinion: HBCUs need our help, and that support can come in many forms"

"Opinion: Students, institutions need support more than ever"



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- "Half of parents say they have no idea how they'll afford their kids' college education, survey finds" (Scripps News)
- "Student loan changes are here; Ohio's average student loan debt is about $35,000" (Ohio Capital Journal)
- "6 Common Misconceptions About Financial Aid" (U.S. News & World Report)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- "Persistence rate tops 77%, the highest level in a decade, report finds" (Higher Ed Dive)
- "Threats of more closings have colleges and students worrying about how to save themselves" (The Hechinger Report)
- "The Great Sorting of American Universities Has Begun" (RealClear Education)

First-Generation College Students

- "The 'Second Curriculum' — What 1st-Gen College Students Need to Know, But Don't" (The 74)
- "Beyond the Degree: A First-Generation Perspective on the Lasting Impact of College" (National College Attainment Network)

Admissions

- "Why outcomes now dominate the college search" (University Business)

College Access & Success

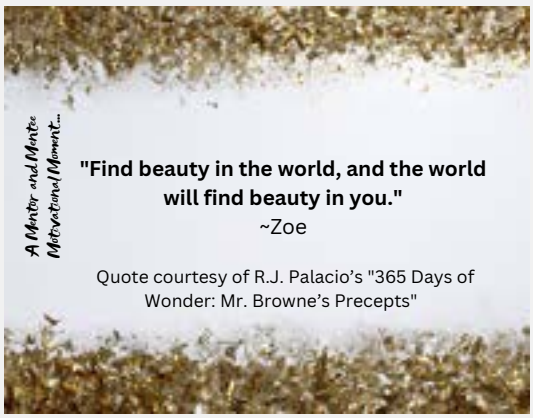
- "The Quiet Redesign of the Bachelor's Degree" (Washington Monthly)

College & Career Readiness

- "What Today's College Students Need That Previous Generations Didn't" (The 74)
- "New grads have to compete with AI for entry-level roles, hiring managers say" (HR Dive)

Podcasts & Interviews

- "Voices of Student Success: The Hidden Curriculum First-Gen Students Face" (The Key with Inside Higher Ed)
- "Back-to-School College Admissions Priorities for Students and Families" (Application to Admission)
- "One App, Many Options" (Admissions Beat)



COLLEGE ACCESS CORNER

- FinAid
- SOCHE (Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education)