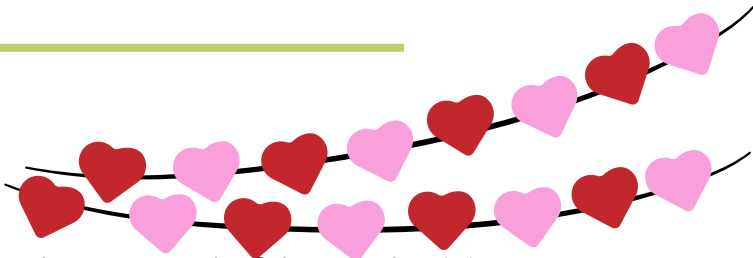




MENTORING THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2025
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

February



February may be the shortest month of the year, but it is one of the busiest for MCOCP. Thankfully, the days are growing a little bit longer, and we're enjoying more daylight while filling up the calendar simultaneously. This month, our 15th Cohort will be selected, and we will be hosting our annual College Promise Scholar Night for junior mentees, mentors and their families. And, we hope you were able to attend our Q3

HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY

Mentor Roundtable and learn some helpful tips and nuggets to assist you in your mentoring role.

As always, you'll discover plenty of noteworthy Mentor Reminders and news topics in this edition. Find articles and podcasts on enrollment trends, student mental health, admissions insights, competition in college clubs, and more. And, be sure that you don't miss out on specific items to share with your mentee.

Last of all, in paying homage to Black History Month, we'll feature a hidden "Gem City" Gem. **Hint:** This shero was the subject of a recent feature film and has ties to The Dayton Foundation. Do you want to know more? Keep turning the pages!

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FEBRUARY DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What do you enjoy doing with your friends?
- Do you have a favorite book? If so, what is it about?
- What is your favorite candy?
- What is the scariest thing you have ever done?

(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 remember to check the school calendar to ensure that you're not meeting on Presidents' Day in February or other days when school is not in session.
- **All-Class Mentors:** With Spring around the corner, we plan to host the pizza parties again with mentees and mentors as a group during the lunch period at the schools. Additional details will be forthcoming soon.
- **All-Class Mentors:** It's mentor recruitment time! We will be selecting our new, 15th Cohort MCOCP Scholars by the end of February 2025. 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 recognize that we can't start too early in the mentor recruitment process.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Miami University is hosting its annual Day of Champions on Saturday, 2/22/25. This daylong event includes breakfast and lunch, an information session, tour, and basketball game against Kent State. Interested MCOCP Scholars should [register](#) online.
- **All-Class Mentors:** MCOCP is proud to announce that we have two new college partners, Otterbein University and Bowling Green State University (BGSU). Otterbein was added this year and is an option for the Class of 2025. BGSU will be available as a college choice beginning with the Class of 2026.
- **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:** MCOCP Scholars, their families, and mentors should have received an invitation in the mail to The College Promise Scholar Night. It will be held on Thursday, 2/27/25 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Sinclair Community College's New Student Enrollment Center (Building 10). **All mentees are expected to attend so that they can meet and interact with our college partners.**
- **Senior Mentors:** By now, senior MCOCP participants should have completed and submitted all of their college admissions applications. From this point forward, they should be checking their emails and college portals on a regular basis for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation.
- **Senior Mentors:** The Dayton Foundation's [ScholarshipCONNECT](#) application opened on 1/8/25. It is a database to over 300 local scholarships through the foundation. Please encourage your mentee to apply and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. **The last day to apply is 3/7/25 by 4 p.m. Note that information from the FAFSA will be needed for the application.**





Design created by
Brian Lawrence

February Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

February has been designated as American Heart Month, Chocolate Lover's Month, and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Below, find some other days to commemorate:

- President's Day, 2/17/25
- International Tug-of-War Day, 2/19/25
- National Cherry Pie Day, 2/20/25
- National Tortilla Chip Day, 2/24/25
- National Tooth Fairy Day, 2/28/25

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some suggested ideas for activities to do with your mentee in the coming weeks. 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](#)

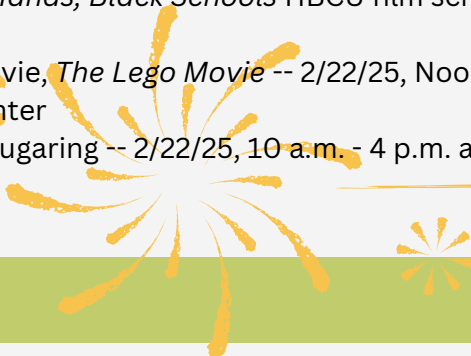
About Charity Adams Earley



- A graduate of Wilberforce University, Adams Earley was an educator, community activist, and officer in the U.S. military.
- Adams Earley served during World War II (enlisted in what later became known as the Women's Army Corps) and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, the first and highest African-American female officer at that time.
- Her military story is told in Tyler Perry's recent film, *The Six Triple Eight*, available on Netflix.
- Dayton Public Schools has named a school, Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy, in her honor.
- She resided in Dayton several decades until her death in 2002.
- There is the [Dr. Stanley A. Earley, Jr., and Charity Edna Earley Fund](#) at The Dayton Foundation.

Sources: The Dayton Foundation and the [National Museum of the United States Army](#)

- 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
- RiverScape MetroPark Ice Rink -- 11/29/24 through 2/28/25
- [Hawthorn Hill Tours](#) (Home of Orville Wright) -- Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Per the link, "advance pre-paid admission is required.")
- [ISLA HBCU Classic](#) (featuring the only two historically black college and university/HBCU gymnastics teams) -- 2/16/25, 3 p.m. at Wilberforce University (Tickets available at the link.)
- *Brown Hands, Black Schools* HBCU film screening, Main Library Branch -- 2/22/25, 1-4 p.m.
- Free movie, *The Lego Movie* -- 2/22/25, Noon and 2 p.m. at the Springboro Performing Arts Center
- Maple Sugaring -- 2/22/25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Carriage Hill MetroPark



NEWS YOU CAN USE

General & Miscellaneous Education

- [“Declining K-12 enrollment spells trouble for higher education’s future”](#) (*Higher Ed Dive*)
- [“What does the education secretary do?”](#) (*PBS NewsHour*)
- [“A guide to what the U.S. Education Department does \(and doesn’t\) do”](#) (*NPR*)
- [“Three Ways Adults Completely Misunderstand Teens’ Digital Lives”](#) (*Teen Voice*)

Student Mental Health

- [“Hopeful Trends in College Mental Health”](#) (*Psychology Today*)

College Admissions

- [“Admission Leaders Share Resolutions For College Applicants”](#) (*Forbes*)

College Access & Success

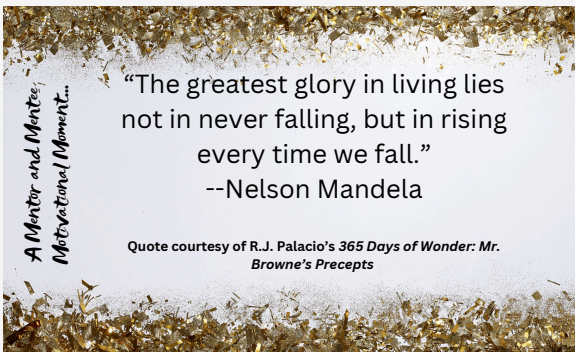
- [“College clubs becoming just as competitive as getting into college”](#) (*EdSource*)

College Value & Affordability

- [“What challenges are Ohio colleges and universities encountering?”](#) (*Ohio Capital Journal*)
- [“Gen Z Students Are Optimistic About Higher Ed – Let’s Prove Them Right”](#) (*Forbes*)

Podcasts & Interviews

- [“The Power of Data and Storytelling: Marketing Insights for Education and Admissions with José Mallabo”](#) (*Application to Admission*)
- [“A New Era for Higher Ed?”](#) (*Future U*)



- **Scholarful/GradGab** (A GradGab app is available too.)
- **Scholly** (A Scholly app is available too.)