



Become a GCSA Mentoring Partner

About GCSA

For over 65 years, GCSA has provided support to students in underserved New York City communities so they can achieve their academic goals and career dreams. Our professional staff helps high school students explore their personal goals and assists them to prepare and apply to the higher education programs of their choice. Upon high school graduation and admission to college, students enrolled in GCSA's program are provided a four-year scholarship to help alleviate the financial burdens of pursuing higher education.

Mentoring Program

GCSA partners with leading companies in the metropolitan area to connect corporate mentors with high-school students. We work with companies including Google, SL Green, Twitter, Penguin Random House, and others to empower students by connecting them with mentors who serve as role models and help them build self-esteem, stay in school, and set academic and career goals.

The Power of Mentoring on Student Success

The difference a mentor can make in a young person's life is extraordinary and measurable. Underserved students with mentors are:

- 50% more likely to go to college.
- 78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.
- 81% more likely to participate in sports or extracurricular activities.
- 132% more likely to hold a leadership position in a club, sports team, school council, or other groups.

Mentor Commitment

The GCSA mentoring process begins with students in the 10th grade and continues through graduation. Through twice-monthly virtual meetings mentors help guide their mentees' personal and professional growth. Over time mentees learn about the elements of their mentor's job, explore aspects of day-to-day business operations, and gain insights into the discipline, focus, and determination associated with personal responsibility and leadership.

- Mentors and mentees are matched and introduced at a virtual kick-off celebration.
- Bi-monthly sessions begin the following week via zoom or other virtual platform.
- Each virtual one-on-one session is scheduled for after-school, and lasts for one hour.
- Sessions are facilitated by GCSA staff and include a theme and a GCSA-created activity.

Partnership Opportunities and Benefits

GCSA Mentorship partners ensure the success of our program and our students with a commitment of staff to serve as mentors and a financial investment to help offset program costs. The benefits of partnership include:

- Opportunity to engage employees through an enriching mentor experience
- Recognition on GCSA's Website
- Promotion of the partnership on social media
- Recognition in GCSA's Annual Report and Newsletters
- Participation and recognition at semi-annual events

GCSA Sponsorship Levels Available			
To Become a	Cohort Partner	Class Partner	Student Sponsor
Financial Investment	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
Staff Commitment	30	20	10

Additional FAQs

What are the benefits for the mentors?

Over the years mentors have experienced the joy of encouraging teenagers discover and reach for their dreams. Helping students find the post-secondary education that meets their needs is a huge gift for teenagers who are often the first in their families to pursue higher education.

Do mentors receive training?

Yes, mentors receive training at the start of the program and support from GCSA staff throughout the entire mentorship.

What topics are covered by mentors?

Before each mentoring session, each participating mentor receives a memo suggesting topics and activities that coordinate with what the student covered in class the week before with GCSA staff. Mentors discuss a variety of topics with mentees related to their careers, their educational/college experiences, and their passions and interests. Mentors and mentees may also discuss experiences in their personal lives.

What is the time commitment for mentors?

Ideally, mentors make a multi-year commitment to the program, which includes twice a month, one-hour virtual meetings while school is in session. If pairings want to schedule additional virtual meetings according to their schedules, they may do so. We also encourage mentors to participate in annual in-person events.