

Be the LINK

Volunteer Mentors are needed—to be a part of this exciting new partnership between Springfield Local Schools, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (lead agency), the Holland Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Holland Springfield Rotary Club.

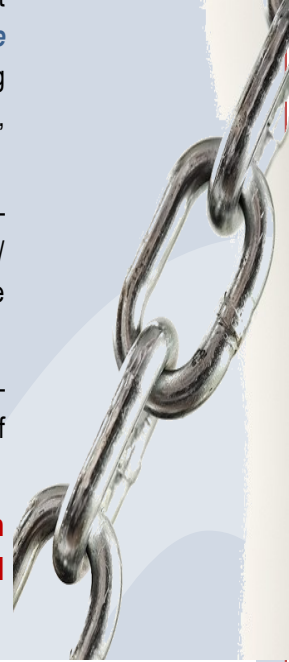
In June 2014, Governor John R. Kasich signed into law one of Ohio's key education reforms. *The Community Connectors* program was designed to bring together parents, non-profit community organizations, faith- or values- based entities, businesses and other stakeholders to support Ohio's schools through the development of a statewide mentoring program for students from eligible school districts.

Springfield Local School was very fortunate in 2017-18 to partner with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Holland Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Holland Springfield Rotary Club to pursue support in what was an extremely competitive grant cycle. We believe it was the unique nature of the partnership and results-oriented focus that interested *The Community Connectors* Grant Committee. One hundred and ninety applicants requesting over \$20 million in funding were included this year—only \$8 million dollars was available. We were beyond pleased to learn that our Be the Link!, was selected for funding through the Connectors grant program in the amount of \$89,950.

The premise is to work with students as they transition from middle to high school and pair them with community-based mentors in fields of interest. For both mentors and students, we anticipate a renewed excitement to share/learn valuable skills that can result in the receipt of a the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness seal following their 15 Unique Skills rubric ([right click here](#) to review).

Springfield Local Schools' students will benefit from the unique support offered by the partnership—if you are interested in learning more about Be the Link or becoming a mentor, please contact Mary Heidenreich, Fellowship of Christian Athletes administrative assistant, at 419.724.4420.

The goal of Be the Link is to provide support to students as they transition from middle to high school by helping them focus on their strengths . . . this will help them be successful in high school and in all the years that follow. We hope many will share our excitement and become involved!



Here are some of the details included in the Mentor Job Description

Expectations and Responsibilities:

- Promote positive academic, social and civic behaviors including but not limited to: Reliability, Work Ethic, Punctuality and Discipline
- Set goals with mentee and monitor progress
- Be a liaison between family and school as needed
- Follow prescribed talking points designed to build relationships with mentee
- Participate in service learning opportunities
- Participate in group visits to college and/or career center with mentee
- Respect confidentiality of the student and the family
- Set and maintain boundaries appropriate for mentoring relationship
- Report unsafe choices and conditions of the mentee to proper personnel and/or authorities

Time Requirements:

- Meet at least 1 hour weekly with mentee
- Commit to at least 1 school year of support for this student

Qualifications:

- Positive role model
- Drug free
- Passion for working with at-risk youth
- Desire to overcome challenges and assist others in doing so
- Twenty-one years of age or older preferred
- Promoting the spirit of service to others within others

Orientation and Training:

Attend initial orientation and follow-up trainings throughout the year provided by FCA/School staff designed to foster the relationship, provide clear parameters and explain available resources

Are you looking to:

- Make a difference in the life of a young person; helping someone realize his/her potential
- Build new relationships
- Give back to the local community
- Learn more about yourself and becoming a better leader
- Positively impact the future workforce