



THE VISION

School-based Mentoring Since 1994

Winning Futures Annual Newsletter

Mentor:
Jack Dolan
Engineer
Fiat Chrysler Automotive

Mentee:
Mathew Alexander
Engineering Student
Winning Futures Alum

I Found my Purpose and Passion

My name is Mathew Alexander and I am a proud Winning Futures alum. I graduated from Cass Technical High School with a 3.3 overall GPA and earned a scholarship to attend Michigan Technological University where I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering. My mentor Jack Dolan helped me discover my passion for engineering. Jack is an Engineer for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and helped me explore my career and college options.

Jack is a great guy, very down to earth, and easy to talk to. Our sessions together often involved some sort of laughter, but also a great deal of professionalism. Jack offered plenty of great advice; what stuck with me most was the advice of being true to myself and to find my passion.

My attitude became more positive than it was previous to being in Winning Futures. I developed a deeper understanding of myself and how to calm myself down and not allow anger to consume me. (Continued inside)

surveyed alumni
who **continued**
their **education**

95%

students said
they increased
their **self-**
confidence

80%

students
gained a **more**
positive
view of their
future

87%

Mentors said
they **observed**

students
with
more
direction
in their
career path

83%

84%

students
who are
more
likely
to further
their
education
in college
or trade
schools

I Found my **Purpose and Passion**

(Continued)

I became more optimistic and certain of my future because I had a real life example (Jack) in front of me proving my dreams were possible.

If you were to ask my teachers how Winning Futures changed me, they would most likely tell you that I began to take my education seriously. I went from trying to impress the young ladies with my jokes to working hard and making the most out of my high school years. I made sure I received the best education I could while I was at Cass Tech.

Jack opened my eyes to many of the challenges I would face in the transition from high school, to college, and into the professional world. I was able to overcome many of the obstacles I encountered simply by being aware of them and how they would impact my life. I've had to deal with not feeling smart enough or good enough to become an engineer, loneliness as I moved away from all my friends and family, minor depression, and a lack of confidence at times. In my toughest moments, I would think back to some of the life lessons I learned from Winning Futures and my mentor Jack.



As part of my five-year vision statement, I wrote that I wanted to be a Mechanical Engineering major, a member of NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), and earn an internship with a company to gain the experience needed for my career. I have accomplished all of my initial goals. I serve as the Senator of Michigan Tech's NSBE Chapter and have an internship with Marathon Petroleum Corporation. I am proud of the opportunities I have worked to receive, and like my mentor, I plan to use my voice to empower and educate others and motivate students to major in STEMM careers. I am truly thankful for having a mentor like Jack Dolan.

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor,
contact: Lindsey@winningfutures.org or
visit www.winningfutures.org



School Partnerships

Cass Technical High School
Community High School
Cornerstone Health + Tech High School
Cornerstone Madison-Carver Academy
DCP at Northwestern High School
East Detroit High School
Harper Woods High School
Lawrence Technological University

Lincoln High School
Madison High School
Mumford High School
Pontiac Academy for Excellence
Warren Mott High School
Western International High School
Voyageur College Prep High School



91%

of students served
were eligible for free or
reduced lunch



Letter from the CEO - Kristina Marshall

We are excited to launch our first annual outcomes newsletter! Our goal is to share stories with you about our students, mentors, educators, sponsors, and board members, along with educating you on how our students are improving and evolving. Each year, our student take pre- and post-surveys and we analyze the data to see how they have progressed in our mentoring and Keys to College programs. Mentors and teachers also take assessments to rate the changes in the youth. It is important that our stakeholders know that their time, treasure, support, and resources are making a positive impact!



This year we will impact

1,989 students
at 15 schools

through



13
staff



180
volunteer
mentors

with the
assistance of



20
board
members



250
other
volunteers

supported by



26,610
hours of service



442
sponsors and
individual donors

Together, we are reaching our mission to inspire and prepare young people to be self-reliant and successful. Thank you for making a difference!

A Transformation

One of the most rewarding experiences we have is when transformation takes place before our eyes. Year after year it never gets old, watching students who initially did not see the value in our program, change their lives. A transformation is exactly what took place for one Warren Mott High School student during our mentoring program.

Kasey Cochran was a senior at Warren Mott High School. Unfortunately, Kasey frequently missed mentoring sessions. Although extremely bright, he showed little interest in participating or genuinely connecting with his mentor, Matt Michayluk of Complete Prototype Services. After missing several weeks, his mentor and facilitator became concerned so they reached out to him.



After realizing how much they cared about his future, Kasey returned to the next session serious about the program and his mentor.

Kasey set a goal to join the military after graduation. Following the steps of the strategic planning lessons we teach, Kasey discovered what he needed to do to achieve his goal. After graduating, he joined the Marines and plans to attend boot camp in November. Kasey transformed his life by making the decision to get involved. At Winning Futures, students like Kasey are able to succeed because of the trusting relationships built with their mentors and the tools taught in our career-focused curriculum.

\$35,000 Awarded to High School Students

Continuing education takes planning, time, and money. Our mentoring and Keys to College programs help students develop plans for the future, and our scholarships assist with the funds. The Winning

Futures Scholarship Program and RARE Everyday Hero Scholarship competition awarded a total of \$35,000 to help 31 students cover the costs of tuition and fees, on-campus room and board, and books.



100%

of **TEACHERS** would recommend the program to others

Rewarding Experience - Krystn Clark



I have volunteered with several other organizations before, but being a Winning Futures mentor is by far the most rewarding. I have enjoyed and personally benefited from every moment I mentored four senior girls from Community High School who participated in the program for credit recovery. These young ladies were so appreciative and responsive to me.

In fact, one of my mentees won the scholarship.

The trust and connection I had with “my girls” was most rewarding. My favorite moment was when one mentee asked if I would help her get ready for prom since her mother was in the hospital. For the record, this is the one mentee I felt like I was struggling with the most and it amazed me when she asked if I wanted to help her. This proves that we don’t always know what the other person is thinking or feeling. My response... “Of course !!”

In my opinion, this program should be in EVERY classroom for graduating seniors. The facilitators are organized,

energetic, and positive influences on these students. The message being taught each week is not unique to just the students. Every Tuesday morning I always felt like I left with a jolt of positive energy and self-awareness that I could apply to both my personal and professional life.

Thank you to everyone at Winning Futures for what you are doing and living on a daily basis.

Krystn Clark

Brown & Brown of Detroit



95%

students said they benefitted from the program

97%

said they would recommend the program to other students

96%

mentors said they felt they made a difference

90%

mentors said when they went to work after a mentoring session their attitude was improved

91%

mentors said they developed new skills that have helped them improve professionally



The most important thing I have learned thus far is to plan ahead. You never know what to expect in the future, and you don’t want to enter adulthood without knowing what to do next.



Rapheal – Student, Harper Woods High School

2016 Mentors of the year



We are lucky to have many fantastic mentors who are helping young people find their purpose and passion. The Winning Futures Mentor of the Year Award is presented to one outstanding volunteer from each of our program sites to honor their commitment to mentoring and the difference they make in the lives of those they mentor.

The 2016 Winning Futures Mentors of the Year are:

(Back Row, Left to Right)

John Opie, FCA

David Hamilton, Hamilton Chevrolet

(Front Row, Left to Right)

Julie Owens, U.S. District Court

Imelda Trevino-Ingman, General Motors

James E. Lee, MassMutual Michigan Metro

Robyn Carroll, Wayne County

Carmelita Bambrick, McNaughton-McKay Electric Company



Jesmarie's Keys to College

Every week, Jesmarie met her Winning Futures facilitator with more and more questions. Sometimes her questions were about what it would take for her to start her own business; other times, her questions centered around college choices and potential majors. One thing was for sure: Jesmarie wanted to know all of her options and refused to settle for anything less than the best.

Jesmarie is an incredibly driven and talented recent graduate from Western International High School in Detroit who was enrolled in our Keys to College program. While completing the eight week training sessions, Jesmarie constantly asked about how to become more prepared for her career. She is interested in starting an



organization that would service the community she is from, specifically helping the homeless. While in our program, Jesmarie decided to apply, and was accepted, to Wayne State University's Mike Ilitch School of Business and has received multiple scholarships. She plans to continue working hard towards becoming a

business owner that can have a positive impact on southwest Detroit.

Jesmarie also had the opportunity to attend the Fuel Leadership Conference thanks to tickets sponsored by PNC Bank. At the event, Keys to College seniors were able to learn from established business professionals on what it takes to start, and successfully run, businesses.

Jesmarie represents so many students who have inspiring visions for their future. By helping them set plans for their education and career, we can empower the next generation to accomplish their goals and be agents of positive change in the communities around them - like Jesmarie.

After Completing Keys to College

nearly **half of students** said their education plan changed to better fit their career goals

79%

of students completed a career assessment and researched careers



80%

of students wrote an individual career plan

76%

of students researched colleges that fit their



2016 Sam Cupp Impact Award Recipient

Since our founder, Sam Cupp, passed away in 2012, we have annually awarded an individual with the Sam Cupp Impact Award. It is for a business owner or corporate executive who saw a need in their community and did something about it. This year, we presented it to Frank Venegas Jr., the Chairman and CEO of Ideal Group, which is headquartered in southwest Detroit and employs over 500 people.

As a successful businessman, he has actively made an impact in the community with both his time and treasure. He is passionate about empowering others through programs like First Robotics and through employment at Ideal group.

2016 Winning Futures Partner of the Year

The Partner of the Year Award was presented to Greg Kelser, Detroit Pistons broadcaster. Each summer since 2011, Winning Futures partners with Greg to facilitate a free basketball camp for 100 Detroit youth at Cass Technical High School. The camp serves young athletes off the court and in the classroom with a curriculum that focuses on goal setting, positive attitude, and team work. To date, 730 youth have been impacted by this partnership.



Annual Golf Outing Indianwood Country Club September 12, 2016

This event is sold out, but sponsorships are still available. Contact Julie Rayes at 586-698-4416 or Julie@Winningfutures.org for more information.



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FEBRUARY 25, 2017

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Patrick Photographic Studios
Penske Corporation
Proper Group International
Rotary Club of Pontiac
Sky Studio
Turnaround Management
Association-Detroit Chapter

“Everyone can use a champion in their life!” Mike Eberhardt - Cass Tech Mentor

students completed at least
one step in their **career plan**

85%

students have the **skills
required to succeed** in a
career

86%

teachers said they observed
students with a **more positive
attitude toward school**

69%

mentors said they observed stu-
dents with **more confidence in
themselves and school**

84%

Planned Gift

Remember Winning Futures in your planned giving. Planned gifts to Winning Futures are bequests or gifts made through a will or trust. A gift may be small or large in amount, but all are important to our organization.

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Bright Summer for Juan Torres

The summer is looking bright for Winning Futures student Juan Torres who was recently chosen to participate in the Lear Automotive Youth Academy (LAYA). Juan lives with his mother, father, and two younger siblings. At age four, Juan's parents decided that in order for him to have the best opportunities, they would move to America. "My parents have made a lot of sacrifices for me and my younger siblings so that we can live a good life. I travel to Mexico often, and I know that my life would not be as good as it is if we still lived there," said Juan. The internship could not have come at a better time for Juan, as his father has been recently laid off from work.

When asked, "What do you look forward to most about the internship with Lear?" Juan responded that he is looking forward to the experience. He has never had a job so he is excited about the opportunity



to earn money and learn more about business. Unlike most teens, he isn't looking forward to the money from the internship to buy a car, or hang out with his friends all summer; he plans to help support his family and save the money he earns from LAYA to go towards books for school. After high school graduation in 2017, Juan hopes to attend The University of Michigan to study business management.

Lear worked with Winning Futures to select four students to participate in LAYA. The purpose of the academy is to provide students a useful and enriching educational experience through the Wayne State University School of Business, along with training days at Lear. LAYA is a summer program designed to provide select Detroit Public School youth with academic, employability, and life skills development.