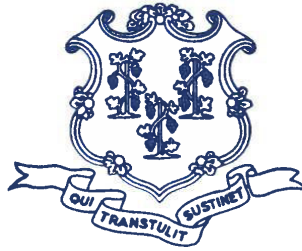


State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

*M*entors represent our State's best hope for a better future and throughout Connecticut, mentors are helping to build stronger communities. The extraordinary commitment of individuals who share their time and talent is one of our most valued assets.

*M*entors inspire all of Connecticut's residents and deserve our deepest appreciation for enriching the lives of so many young people.

*N*ational Mentoring Month aims to raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms; recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have a waiting list of young people; and promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations—businesses, faith communities, schools and community groups—to encourage their constituents to become mentors to young people.

I commend mentors for their dedication and perseverance. Their commitment and drive are an inspiration to all of Connecticut's residents and a testament to their strength and determination. Their efforts strengthen our State and demonstrate the great influence of one person's kindness and its ability to touch a life.

*T*he Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, a program of the Governor's Prevention Partnership, is leading a statewide effort to recruit more mentors. I have made a firm commitment to mentoring and challenge business leaders and educators across the State to join me. Together, we can prepare our future workforce by developing children's skills and confidence and expanding their notion of what is possible.

*T*herefore, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, in recognition of the need for mentors to help children achieve their fullest potential, do hereby officially proclaim the month of January 2009, as

CONNECTICUT MENTORING MONTH

in the State of Connecticut.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor