

Focus on Achievement Mentoring Partnership

- ▶ The Florida Mentoring Partnership, formerly the Governor’s Mentoring Initiative, began in 1999 under the leadership of Governor Jeb Bush. The Partnership includes statewide mentoring organizations, along with individual volunteers and mentoring leaders from government, corporations, and municipalities.
- ▶ The number of volunteers mentoring children throughout the state has surpassed 200,000. The *Volunteer Florida Foundation Annual Report 2004-2005* notes that “A 2004 study by the National Mentoring Partnership – of which the Florida partnership is a member – showed that 10 percent of all mentoring programs engaged throughout the country were in Florida.”
- ▶ The Florida Mentoring Partnership is managed by the nonprofit Volunteer Florida Foundation.
- ▶ “The Volunteer Florida Foundation will team with the Florida Campus Compact to train mentors to provide academic support to middle school students across the state. The program will use the ‘Focus on College’ curriculum that emphasizes activities reinforcing that higher education is attainable.” (Governor Bush Announces Access and Diversity Initiative, January 11, 2006)
- ▶ Campus Compact's work encompasses a broad range of activities designed to increase the effectiveness of those working to make higher education institutions vital agents of civic renewal.
- ▶ The “Focus on Achievement” College Student Mentor Program includes a 13 week commitment by a particular college student. The target population to be served includes middle school students.
- ▶ The college or university student will go through training sponsored by the Volunteer Florida Foundation and probably peer university student leaders.
- ▶ Each mentor will spend the first 15 minutes of a mentoring session with the student talking about college life, academics, financial aid, etc. The rest of the time with the student will focus on academic mentoring. The academic curriculum has been reviewed by middle school teachers.
- ▶ The following institutions are piloting the program this spring: FAMU, FAU, FSU, UCF, UF, USF, and TCC.
- ▶ There will be a training of student mentors at FAMU on February 9, 2006. A train-the-trainers session will be scheduled in Ocala to train student leaders from other institutions.
- ▶ Campus coordinators will receive a small stipend.
- ▶ Volunteer Florida would like institutions to commit to a particular number of mentor slots, although students can rotate in and out of the commitment.