

QCC Mentoring earns high marks, reaches partner level in quality based membership

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Mentoring program has earned Mass Mentoring Partnership's highest level of certification: Partner Level Quality-Based Membership (QBM). Quality-Based Membership is a first-in-the-nation process created to promote high-quality best practices among Massachusetts youth mentoring programs. Now being replicated nationally, membership components are based on The Elements of Effective Practice, the national standard for mentoring programs.

QBM is a process that assesses a program's strengths and offers guidance on areas where they may need additional training or technical assistance. There are many benefits to QBM: It provides a meaningful "indicator of quality"; it benchmarks program practices against national standards of excellence; and it demonstrates a program's commitment to excellence to potential mentors, funders, parents, and community partners.

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) Mentoring joins 43 Mass Mentoring Partnership QBM certified mentoring programs in Massachusetts. The program connects QCC students with staff, faculty, industry, and community members to create one-on-one mentoring relationships. This unique program provides extensive benefits to students, as well as professional development and networking opportunities for mentors.

"Our students will greatly benefit from this certification. Mentors can have a lifelong, positive and profound effect on student mentees. Our mentoring program provides a way for students to connect with mentors and build positive relationships to support their college experience. Students also develop employer-desired skills, gain an understanding of workplace expectations and networking to increase their likelihood of finding a rewarding career," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "The program has become an integral component of student success."

"We commend Quinsigamond Community College as a partner in the QBM program and look forward to working with them to help amplify mentoring relationships in central Massachusetts," shared Lily Mendez, President and CEO, Mass Mentoring Partnership.

For more information on Mass Mentoring Partnership and its QBM program, visit <http://www.massmentors.org/qualitymembership> or email info@massmentors.org.

For more information on QCC's Mentoring program, visit www.qcc.edu/services/mentoring or email mentoring@qcc.mass.edu.

About Mass Mentoring Partnership

Founded in 1992, Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is committed to ensuring that every young person in the state has access to quality mentoring relationships, regardless of who they are or where they live. MMP is a

statewide capacity-building organization that partners with corporate, public and philanthropic entities to drive critical resources to a network of more than 370 mentoring and youth-serving organizations, representing more than 50,000 young people. www.massmentors.org

About Quinsigamond Community College

Quinsigamond Community College provides the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible, and high quality programming leading to transfer, career, and lifelong learning.

To learn more, visit www.QCC.edu. For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.