

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the future of Vermont rests on the hopes and dreams of its young people; and

WHEREAS, mentors offer valuable encouragement, motivation and hope for our youth by providing a consistent adult friend and role model; and

WHEREAS, relationships with caring mentors offer youth valuable support to guide them toward making positive, healthy choices; and

WHEREAS, mentoring before, during and after school has become an effective strategy used by schools to increase student attendance and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, research has shown mentored youth are less likely to skip school, start using drugs and alcohol, or engage in violence, and are more likely to attend college. Mentored youth also exhibit improved self-esteem, better relationships, and feel greater connectedness to their community and schools; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between businesses, schools and other youth service organizations, and mentoring programs are an effective way for businesses to support youth within the community; and

WHEREAS, collaborative mentoring programs that are supported by the entire community, locally and statewide, are more visible and therefore able to serve more youth; and

WHEREAS, Vermont mentoring programs, Mobius, and other public and private organizations throughout Vermont are committed to working collaboratively to increase the number of quality mentoring matches statewide; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Vermont youth are waiting for mentors; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, Mobius has served as Vermont's Mentoring Partnership, and provides support for youth mentoring programs and volunteer mentors throughout the state of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, January has been designated National Mentoring Month, a month-long outreach campaign focusing national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors and assure brighter futures for our young people:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim January, 2014 as

MENTORING MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 22 day of January, A.D. 2014



Peter Shumlin
Governor