



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Recognizing January 2021 as
National Mentoring Month**

WHEREAS, January 2021 will mark the 19th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people; and

WHEREAS, Wake County honors volunteer mentors who support young people by showing up for them and demonstrating their commitment to helping them thrive; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs such as EVOLVE Mentoring\ My Brother's & Sister's Keeper, Wake County make our communities and our state stronger by driving meaningful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure social connection despite physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and driving positive outcomes for young people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, self-esteem, emotional growth and well-being for young people; and

WHEREAS, students who meet regularly with their mentors are more than 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school, and youth who face an opportunity gap and have a mentor are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who without a mentor; and

WHEREAS, youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking; and

WHEREAS, almost half of adults today report having a mentor in their youth and those rates appear to have been rising steadily over the past several decades, and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is the time of year to celebrate and promote mentors, mentees and the mentoring movement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim January 2021 as National Mentoring Month in Wake County and encourages members of the community to elevate and encourage mentoring throughout our county, the state and the nation for the sake of our younger generations and the future.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of January 2021.

Matthew M. Calabria, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners