

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, the future success of our state depends upon supporting every child to reach their full potential; and

*WHEREAS*, we recognize that young people need a solid foundation to nurture them as they learn and grow to become productive and caring Washingtonians; and

*WHEREAS*, research shows that mentoring provides long-term benefits for young people by increasing their chances of high school and college success; and

*WHEREAS*, positive relationships with adults decrease the likelihood of disengagement from school and risky behaviors like substance abuse; and

*WHEREAS*, thousands of students across Washington are in need of a caring adult in their lives, and meeting this need will require investment, partnerships, and volunteers ready to make a difference in a student's life; and

*WHEREAS*, quality organizations in our state, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington, Communities In Schools of Washington, Friends of the Children, Boys and Girls Clubs of Washington State, OurGEMS, and Mentor Washington, stand ready to help volunteers get connected with students to mentor them around, over and through the barriers that may keep them from a successful pathway in their lives; and

*WHEREAS*, Mentoring Month is an opportunity to unite the residents of Washington to empower our students, raise public awareness of the importance of mentoring, recognize those who have impacted youth across the state, and build a brighter future for Washington's children through mentoring;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 2021 as

### *Mentoring Month*

in Washington, and encourage all people in our state to recognize the importance of strengthening our communities through mentoring, and to observe this month with gratitude for active mentors and the opportunities to develop new mentors.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

