



**WATERLOO**  
Community School District

**NEWS**

Engaged in Learning ● Prepared for Success

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WATERLOO MENTORS CELEBRATE NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2012**

WATERLOO -- January 2012 will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Mentoring Month, and General Colin Powell leads the national charge in recruiting mentors throughout the country. The theme this year is "Invest in the Future. Mentor A Child." and the campaign focuses on mentoring as a strategy for boosting academic achievement.

Waterloo Community Schools is proud to take part in this annual campaign to raise awareness about the need for mentors in communities across Iowa. In Waterloo there is a need for 200 more school based mentors.

General Powell states, "Our nation's future depends on what we do today to prepare our young people for productive and fulfilling lives. All of us need to get involved to help kids stay focused and stay in school. We must become a nation of graduates. One way for you to help is to volunteer as a mentor."

Data has shown that mentors play a powerful role in decreasing disciplinary referrals and boosting academic achievement and school attendance. Mentors help to build young people's character and confidence, expand their universe, and help them navigate a path to success. Despite these benefits, the gap between the number of mentors and the number of young people who need a mentor continues to grow.

Waterloo Schools will celebrate National Mentoring Month by recognizing our over 170 school based mentors. We appreciate the time they give to children and the program and the difference they make.

Volunteering takes just **one hour a week**. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Ellen Vanderloo at 319-433-1920 or [vanderlooe@waterloo.k12.ia.us](mailto:vanderlooe@waterloo.k12.ia.us). Help us positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential.

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