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TOGETHER WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL!

Grantor: Impact100

Final Report: August 27, 2021

Final Report on Mentor2.0 Project:

Our students, mentors, professional program staff, Board, and families are grateful for our \$100,000 grant for our pilot Mentor2.0 program. It truly has been a game-changing shift of the paradigm. Not only did Impact100's grant enable us to launch a pilot program to partner with a local high school to match a group of high school students with college-educated mentors and career professionals, it also prepared us for a virtual and hybrid world the pandemic propelled us into. Mentor2.0 combines in-classroom curriculum, virtual communications on a proprietary platform and monthly in-person events for the mentor and student. For our agency, this grant has allowed us to think innovatively as we work to serve more youth. For our community, this program offered a mentoring model that meets the needs of those who wanted to engage as a mentor but may have time and travel restrictions that aren't conducive to our traditional programs. For our students, many of them will be first-generation college attendees and graduates. Impact100's grant has created a ripple effect throughout our organization that will impact generations.

We piloted our Mentor2.0 Program at Vineland High School, where we faced many challenges and created new solutions and tweaked processes as is often the experience and purpose of pilot programs.

In Year 1 (2019-2020) we selected Vineland High School as a partner. Although the school district was supportive, we struggled with the high school's buy-in from ineffective class scheduling to lack of aiding in the recruitment of appropriate students for the program. Halfway into Year 1 (2019-2020), the pandemic completely changed the landscape of the world. Additionally, we began to recognize that we might need to consider a different school partner. In Year 2, we had 16 enrolled participants in the cohort, and we strived to keep those mentoring relationships active and the students on track for high school graduation and beyond.

Our quality of program delivery as measured by survey outcomes from the students and our mentors rated nearly 10-15% higher than other Mentor2.0 programs across the country. We recognized that the model would be beneficial in our community, but we needed to align ourselves with a stronger school partner that had more leadership and college-readiness culture buy-in to achieve the exponential impact Mentor2.0 can generate.

In the 4th quarter of 2020, we began exploratory conversations with Cumberland County Technical Education Center who eagerly desired to bring the Mentor2.0 program to their students. The school has taken an active role in recruitment of students as well as teachers and school staff as mentors. (We've attached the link to the video and the recruitment flyer.)

We created the position of Volunteer Engagement and Outreach Coordinator in January of 2021 and have ramped up our recruitment efforts with a targeted multi-pronged, effort that began August 24, 2021 and will run through October 31, 2021.

As of June 30th, we have received 40 mentor inquiries with 30 of them moving to the intake/enrollment process. We have also recruited 30 students. We will continue student recruitment when school starts in September, and our mentor recruitment will continue through October.

We are currently recruiting and hiring a Mentor2.0 Program Manager. Our program will commence in September with the in-class curriculum. Students will be matched with their mentors in October. We are looking forward to inviting Impact100 members to an in-person events as we move forward.

Financial Sustainability

Your \$100,000 investment enabled us to launch and pilot this transformational program. We have successfully secured an additional \$75,000 from a private family foundation to move the program forward in it's third year (2021-2022). We continue to seek individual, corporate, and foundation investments as we believe this signature program gives us the ability to scale and deliver positive generational impact.

In Closing

We thank Impact100 and its membership for believing in this project, our critical and urgent mission, and us. In turn, Donna Bennett, our President/CEO has come to believe in your program and process as we've experienced it and has personally joined Impact100 as of 2020. We look forward to sharing the exponential impact your grant makes, and we are hopeful to partner again in the future. Thank YOU for standing with us as a Defender of Potential!

Photos to Share with Membership

We've also included attached photos from **Vineland High School Mentor2.0 Program**" (labeled 1-3 in the file names.) that we submitted to the Impact100 Magazine. Here are the captions:

1. Mentor Ken and Mentee Louis collaborate on a career path finder activity.
2. Mentor Beatrix Mentee Brazil discuss the steps to apply for college.
3. Our pilot cohort gathers for our monthly in-person Chat and Chew before the pandemic.