

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
12/15/14

CONTACT: Cheri Faunce  
785-368-6211 [cfaunce@ksde.org](mailto:cfaunce@ksde.org)

**Kansas Volunteer Commission Awards Nearly \$100,000 to Mentoring Organizations**  
*Funding will strengthen the capacity of mentoring organizations to increase the number of STEM mentors serving Kansas youth.*

TOPEKA, KS - The Kansas Volunteer Commission (KVC) is pleased to announce nearly \$100,000 in funding to four Kansas mentoring organizations through the 2015 Kansas Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Mentoring Initiative grant competition.

According to the US Department of Commerce, STEM jobs in the United States, in the past ten years, have grown at three times the pace of non-STEM jobs. Yet, it is estimated that by 2018 there will be 1.2 million US job openings in STEM fields, with a significant shortage of qualified applicants to fill them. Investing in STEM-related mentoring in Kansas will help to spark interest in STEM careers and prepare Kansas youth for a successful career path in math and sciences. The KVC understands that mentoring is a powerful way to transform a student’s vision of themselves. The Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative will foster a consistent approach to STEM education and allow for organic development of STEM programs matching local strengths, challenges and resources.

The Kansas STEM Mentoring grant initiative is part of the Volunteer Generation Fund, a grant awarded to the KVC, from the Corporation for National and Community Service. This is the fifth year that Kansas has been awarded the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant. In the first four years of the VGF initiative, the KVC awarded nearly \$550,000 to volunteer-connectors and community organizations. This funding served as a vital investment in developing and strengthening the volunteer infrastructure of the state.

**Kansas Volunteer Commission**  
**2015 Kansas STEM Mentoring Initiative Grant Recipients**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>COUNTIES SERVED</b>
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence	Douglas
Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters	Douglas, Ellis, Montgomery, Riley and Shawnee Counties
Reno County Communities That Care Association	Reno
United Way of Franklin County Association	Franklin

###