

**** PRESS RELEASE ****

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Contact: Brittany Gibson
Tourism and Marketing Manager
brittany@watkinsglenchamber.com
Phone: 607.535.4300



Become a mentor, change a life – learn more on November 30

Watkins Glen, NY – The Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the State of New York and the Watkins Glen Central School District to offer a mentoring program to students in 7th grade. We are seeking 10 individuals who are interested in giving back to the community by mentoring a student! The time commitment is minimal, but provides an opportunity to make a big impact on the life of a local student!

LEARN MORE!

Members of the business community are invited to **learn more about this program on November 30 at 2pm** in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (214 N. Franklin Street, Watkins Glen). We'll be joined by Melinda Sanderson from the Governor's Office. Melinda is the Director of the Mentoring Program for Western New York, Central New York, and Southern Tier. During the information session, she will explain the details of the program and answer any questions.

THE BASICS

Mentor Meetings begin on December 14 and take place once per week, 10:45am to 11:35am on Thursdays in Room 786 at Watkins Glen High School. There is also a required training (including fingerprinting - free for mentors) on December 7 from 10:45am to 11:35am.

Chamber President and CEO Rebekah Carroll shares, "We couldn't be more excited to be partnering with the NYS Mentor Program and the Watkins Glen Central School District on this invaluable program! We believe that the more connectivity between our businesses and our student body, the stronger our community will become. Additionally, the benefit that a one-on-one mentor will bring to each student is beyond measure!"

Watkins Glen High School Principal Kai D'Alleva adds, "Positive adult interactions with students can be a game changer when it comes to overall student development – academically, socially, and emotionally. I am looking forward to getting the New York State mentoring program underway at Watkins Glen High School."

As part of the program, there will also be a peer to peer mentoring element, whereby 11th and 12th graders will mentor 4th graders, bringing the program full circle. Watkins Glen Elementary Principal Rebecca Trank shares, "We are excited to work in partnership with the New York State Mentoring Program, high school students and community members to provide a strong foundation of support for our students."

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please join us at the information session on November 30! Advance reservations for the information session are required. Kindly RSVP by November 27 to Events Manager Anna Rainous: at 607-535-4300 or email anna@watkinsglenchamber.com.

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