

## Helpful Hints

- **Personal Invitations are always best**
- **Don't be afraid to ask:** This is a wonderful opportunity to make an impact in the lives of students
- **Have a 5 minute or less ASPIRE Elevator Pitch:** This is where you can share stories of how students are impacted by the ASPIRE program. Share WHY mentoring is important and how they can help make a difference
- **Don't make assumptions:** There is no singular ASPIRE mentor type. All people from all backgrounds, education levels, and life experiences can make extraordinary mentors
- **Remind potential mentors that they will be trained and well supported:** Often potential volunteers are hesitant that they won't know how to respond or answer questions students might ask. They may feel that the financial aid process is too complicated to learn and explain. Make sure they know that you and the ASPIRE team will support them with training, checklists, mini-lessons, videos, and more

## Where and how do you find community mentors?

Note: See [Mentor Recruitment: Messaging Guide and Marketing](#) on the ASPIRE website for additional information, examples, and templates you can use when recruiting.

**Local Community Partners:** Present to Rotary, Kiwanis, city council, retired educators, and other local civic organizations. Sending a formal letter may work, however sharing about the ASPIRE program in person is usually most effective.

**Educational Partners:** Consider connecting with your local community college or university and provide a letter (or flyer) to be promoted on campus. College students who mentor will benefit by gaining experience with students (great to market to education/social work majors) while building their resumes with service to their community.

**Businesses:** Some businesses offer paid volunteer time as an employee perk/benefit. Do you have businesses in your area that offer these benefits?

**Market ASPIRE through parent/family communications outlets:** Consider newsletters, parent information apps your school uses (Remind, Parent Square, etc.), community, and any other student focused communication outlets.

**Media:** Use both social media and traditional forms of communication (newspapers and radio) to publicize your need for mentors.

**Build your ASPIRE Ambassador Team:** Your current mentors will be your best recruiters. Ask them to share their experiences with mentoring students with those they know and encourage them to give a personal invitation to join your ASPIRE mentor team.

**ASPIRE Graduates:** Recruit your current seniors planning to stay local after high school to volunteer as a mentor after graduation. You may also want to consider virtual mentoring opportunities (based on your site guidelines) these students can mentor from the colleges/university campuses they attend.

## Staff Mentors and CCR Collaboration

We also recommend schools/sites to encourage staff to become ASPIRE mentors. Collaboration of CCR programs, teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff members can build the integrated CCR culture of the school/site that we strive for. *To be considered an ASPIRE mentor you must offer ongoing assistance (must meet at least 3 times) to the students you serve.*

**Career/College Readiness Staff and Program Managers:** Often schools have a wide range of staff that serve the CCR needs of students. Staff members that serve as college or career coordinators, college & career coaches, or graduation mentors can also serve as ASPIRE mentors.

**AVID Teachers:** AVID may be an integrated program at your school schoolwide or through elective classes. AVID teachers may serve as mentors as they assist their AVID elective students in classroom settings during AVID elective courses.

**Counselors:** Any counselor meeting with students to provide individualized CCR support may also be included as an ASPIRE mentor. *In some schools the counselors may also serve as the site ASPIRE Coordinator.*

**Substitute teachers and part-time employees:** All are fully background checked when working, so find out if these individuals have additional time to serve as ASPIRE mentors.

## Keep your eyes open for great mentors!!!

Always be on the lookout for creative and innovative new ways to draw new mentors into your ASPIRE program. If you have found success in recruiting, please share your ideas with other ASPIRE coordinators and your ASPIRE access specialist. Best practices from coordinators help new coordinators build thriving ASPIRE programs!

***“Many people want to contribute to their communities in one way or another; ASPIRE provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the future of a community.”***  
**ASPIRE Mentor**