

## Logic Model

### Outcomes

- Increased confidence for college and the workforce
- Increased Emotional Intelligence
- Increased preparation, including higher ACT scores

### Outputs

- Produced materials for college/career (e.g., Resume, Personal Statements, Scholarships applications)
- Displayed increased interest and self-motivation to complete the sessions and materials.

### Activities

- Multiple monthly meetings with students
- Educational sessions
- Assignments to be completed and explored at upcoming sessions

### Inputs

- Networking with local companies to find career mentors, engaging students and their parents
- Discussions with Grissom school board, creation of sessions, schedules, and outlines.
- Reaching out to experts to lead sessions

## Introduction

Fatherlessness is a pervasive issue in the United States, with approximately one in four children growing up in single-parent households (Census Bureau, 2019). Fatherless individuals are at increased risk of negative outcomes, including:

- Lower academic achievement.
- Worse mental health (McLanahan, 2009).
- Increased risk of crime and premature death.

Mentorship programs have been shown to be effective in mitigating these effects but low-income communities may not have access (DuBois et al., 2002). Social determinants of health, such as poverty and lack of access to healthcare, can further exacerbate the negative effects of father absence (House, 2002). Therefore, it is important to promote equity in access to mentorship programs for fatherless individuals to address the need for positive role models and support for this population.



## Impact

Working with Amy Langford, a guidance counselor at Grissom High School in Huntsville, AL, we recruited juniors at risk due to fatherlessness. Our program provided mentorship through meeting these students and learning the careers they plan to pursue.

- Connected students with professionals in their career fields of interest
  - Including supply chain management and computer engineering
- Organized student internships in those fields
- Held sessions preparing the students for college.
  - Sessions included: FAFSA applications, personal statement crafting, resume building, diet and exercise, financial education and scholarships, and ACT preparation.

We have had a positive impact on academic achievement, social skills, and mental health. We verified these gains using pre- and post-program assessments and direct questionnaires.

## Critical Assessment

We encountered several barriers and challenges that required creative solutions, including logistical challenges, such as scheduling conflicts and communication issues. Through this Fellowship, we learned valuable skills in program development, community engagement as well as the implementation of programming created in conjunction with mentees. We also gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by fatherless individuals and the importance of mentorship in promoting positive outcomes.

To sustain our mentorship program, we plan to secure funding, expand our reach, and continue evaluating the program's impact based on feedback from stakeholders. Our goal is to provide ongoing mentorship and support to promote positive outcomes and resilience in this vulnerable population.

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