

## Congratulations to P4K's outstanding mentors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter!

Goal Buddy of the Quarter: Pam Schwarting



It is an honor to nominate Pam Schwarting for Goal Buddy of the 2nd Quarter. Pam has been a dedicated P4K Goal Buddy Mentor changing lives at Fontenelle Elementary School for the past 5 years.

She has a calming way of working with her students while simultaneously holding them accountable and motivating them to be successful in and out of the classroom. Pam gives her whole heart and her students know that she is in their corner, regardless of any circumstance they may face.

In addition to her dedicated service at the school, she has consistently provided additional opportunities for all P4K stakeholders (students, mentors, teachers, families and collaborative partners) to engage with UNO athletics.

This fall Pam invited Field Club, Sherman, King and Mt. View elementary schools to attend a Lady Mavs Basketball game (vs. Montana State). Approximately 1350 students, 300 family members, 83 school staff and 5 Goal Buddy mentors attended with 5 P4K staff at the Sapp Fieldhouse with lunch and UNO merchandise to go home with every person in attendance. Then she worked with UNO athletic students to sponsor a holiday gift giving event for 30 students from King elementary.

Pam is a beautiful soul sent to P4K and our students and there is no denying she more than deserves this honor, it is a privilege to have witnessed her dedication for youth with my own eyes. It is an honor to call her a volunteer, friend and one who inspires everyone around her to uplift our future to greatness.

Congratulations Ms. Schwarting for service beyond our expectation and for being a mentor champion!

Nominated by: Yolanda R. Williams, Elementary Program Manager

Middle School Group Mentor of the Quarter: Michael Vann



Michael Vann is my nomination for Mentor of the Quarter because of his caring, dedication and goals for his group. This is Michael's 2<sup>nd</sup> year of being a fantastic mentor and his 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys really enjoy their bond. Despite his busy schedule as a Real Estate professional and technology entrepreneur, he makes sure to embrace every opportunity to interact with his group. Michael is matched with Eddie, Dismas, Malik and Willie at McMillan.

Michael is a great mentor because he makes sure to engage his boys during meeting discussion topics, as well as arrange fun outings. In addition to supporting their academic goals Michael has gotten to know his boys' passions. His gifts and outings reflect this as he helps them explore arts, athletics, and culture as well as trying new things. He's even gone above and beyond expectations, bringing his mentees birthday and holiday gifts indicative of how well he knows the boys.

Michael is also a great mentor because of desire to understand where his mentees come from and the challenges and opportunities in front of them. He has mentees that are biracial, a set of brothers, and an African immigrant; he has worked to learn about the issues and interests inherent with such a diverse group. In this he has excelled, and it shows whenever the group is together.

Not only is Michael focused on their academic achievement, he is ready to tackle tough issues with kindness. One of his mentees was having a rough day with bullies and was letting his

frustration impact his P4K participation to the point the youth could have been removed from the group. Michael took this opportunity to work with the youth on an apology to the program coordinator. Through their discussion the youth was able to create a written apology and approach the PC with respect and contrition. Through the power of a good mentor the youth was able to correct the situation, improve his behavior, and continue participating in P4K.

Nominated by: Damien Coran, Middle School Program Coordinator

High School Group Mentor of the Quarter: Greg Meyer



In his first semester working with the tenth graders at Central, he has already made a huge impact. He is very easy going and relatable to the gentlemen in his group. One of his mentees says, "He always is interested in listening to our ideas, and he's also good at giving his own (ideas)." He's played an instrumental role in the group project they worked on during the first semester, taking the group to the YES shelter to learn more about homelessness and hand out food and supplies. He always brings great experiences and energy to the meetings!

Nominated by: Rebecca Marz, High School Program Coordinator