State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, mentoring is a highly effective strategy for enriching the lives of New York State's children and young adults by teaming them up with caring, responsible adults who can provide guidance, direction, and positive influence on their lives; and

Whereas, research shows that quality mentoring is effective in helping young people make responsible decisions, stay focused and engaged in school, and decrease or avoid risky behaviors and dangerous activities; and

Whereas, mentors help to promote healthy development and self-confidence in our youth through relationships built on mutual trust and respect; for those who serve as mentors, the personal rewards and benefits are immense, as by sharing their time, knowledge, and abilities, they can make a meaningful and lasting difference in many young lives; and

Whereas, founded here in New York State in 1995, Mentoring USA is a leading national site-based mentoring organization that pairs at-risk youth across the country with trained adult mentors who guide them in developing healthy lifestyles and improved self-esteem, appreciating diversity, achieving academic and personal success, and making positive life choices; since its inception, Mentoring USA has fostered supportive mentoring relationships for more than 5,000 youth, nationally and internationally; and

Whereas, January is designated as National Mentoring Month to raise awareness of the value of mentoring, and this year's theme, *Mentoring Works,* emphasizes the positive outcomes mentoring has in the areas of academic achievement and social behavior, workforce development, employee satisfaction and retention, and community engagement; and

Whereas, recruitment of qualified mentors is an important goal of National Mentoring Month, which focuses on engaging more community members in volunteering as mentors, and sharing the message: "Be Someone Who Matters to Someone Who Matters"; and

Whereas, January 8, 2015 "I Am a Mentor Day" and January 15, 2015 "Thank Your Mentor Day" recognize dedicated mentors who give generously of themselves and who exemplify the value of mentoring; and

Whereas, it is fitting that New Yorkers recognize the importance of mentoring, acknowledge the caring individuals who serve as mentors, and encourage more people to help build a brighter future for the youth of New York through mentoring;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 2015 as

NEW YORK MENTORING MONTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the State of New York this thirtieth day of December in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor