

The Purpose of this Guide

This guide is intended to help GED programs implement peer mentoring initiatives or expand upon existing ones. It is based primarily on lessons learned by the Future Now/IMPACT program at Bronx Community College.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guide was written by Anthony Tassi of Literacy Partners under contract to Future Now/IMPACT. It was produced as part of a project sponsored by the New York City Young Men's Initiative and the Center for Economic Opportunity to provide technical assistance to GED programs to implement peer mentoring initiatives.

The staff of Future Now/IMPACT would like to thank the Robin Hood Foundation, Henkels & McCoy, Bronx Community College, the New York City Department of Education, and the Mayor's Office of Human Capital Development for their invaluable contributions in the establishment of the peer mentoring program at Future Now and Cal Crow, Adolf Smith, Jennifer Wynn, David Hernandez, Keith Honeywell, Robert Molina, Erick Hallgreen, Carin Savage, Jeniffer Herrera-Andujar, and Katy Taylor for helping to implement and support Future Now's theory of change which emphasizes a "head / heart / soul" approach to education. Cal Crow's 3 C's: confidence, competence and connection have pointed Future Now toward a more student-respectful, empowering environment and a program culture open to innovation.

The author of this guide would like to thank Elizabeth Payamps, Hipolito Rosario, Jean Yao, William Ruiz, Mark Bodrick, Claudia Ramirez, Margie Arce, and David Lezcano for developing an effective peer mentoring model and for patiently explaining the programmatic details. Ella Russell and Lakesa Powell from Medgar Evers College, Zenobia Johnson, and Sheryl Smith from Hostos Community College and Michael Carey of College Initiative each have made important contributions to peer mentoring and to this guide. Leslee Oppenheim, Carson Hicks, Dorick Scarpelli, and Tara Colton also provided important comments and suggestions on an earlier draft.

Copies of this guide, along with other helpful information, can be downloaded for free at www.livingproof.literacypartners.org.