



Words Alive Westreich Scholarship (WAWS) Mentor

Words Alive is a non-profit organization that inspires a commitment to reading and develops shared reading experiences for children, youth and adults. Words Alive seeks to imbue program participants with a lifelong love of reading and learning. We accomplish this by creating and supporting:

- Targeted programs for underserved communities;
- Community learning forums;
- Community-wide reading projects;
- Model reading programs; and
- Networks for communicating about reading.

Basic Assignment: A WAWS Mentor is a volunteer that dedicates himself/herself to a paired mentee at the minimum of one year (May 2019 – May 2020) and provides support (e.g. meeting with mentee in person, provide advice, and prepare mentee for the transition to higher education). This year, we are looking uniquely to pair several incoming college freshmen with mentors of similar lived experience. Scholarship recipients enter the program through our Adolescent Book Group within the Juvenile Court and Community School system. Our freshman cohort includes young women who are parenting, women and men who have transitioned through homelessness and have been impacted by the justice system. Our hope is to pair them with the support of a mentor who has not only graduated college (with at least a bachelor's degree) but also with someone to whom they can relate and really learn from.

Responsibilities:

- Available over the summer to help mentee prepare for the upcoming semester
- Ensure student is enrolled in Fall/Spring Classes
- Ensure mentee has housing
- Help student open a bank account
- Meet in person with mentee at least once a month
- Text/phone call check-ins in addition to in-person meetings
- Be a support system for the mentee, provide resources, and give professional advice when appropriate
- Attends all in-service training sessions

Requirements:

- **Available for WAWS Mentor Training (Wednesday, May 29th from 10:30 – 12:30 PM)**
- **Available for WAWS Mentorship Kick-Off Event (Thursday, June 6th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM)**
- **Available over the summer to help mentee prepare for the upcoming semester**
- Applicant must hold a bachelor's degree
- Submit a complete Words Alive Volunteer Application
- Submit a complete background check release form
- Attend Volunteer Orientation
- Participate in a Volunteer Interview

- Computer literate and able to correspond with members electronically
- Strong communication skills

Commitment: May 2019 – May 2020

Contact: Jonathan Camitan
AmeriCorps VIP Fellow
Phone: (858) 274-9673
E-mail: jonathan@wordsalive.org

**All mentor applicants will be considered and placement with mentee will follow after training. Thank you for your interest.*