



April 7, 2015  
Nicole LaChance  
(843) 554-5987

[nlachance@beamentornow.org](mailto:nlachance@beamentornow.org)

## Lowcountry youth mentors to be honored during annual Mentor Appreciation Celebration

**CHARLESTON, S.C. — April 7, 2015** — [Be a Mentor](#), an in-school mentoring program that works to instill youth with confidence, build social and emotional skills, and ensure that every child in the Lowcountry has a caring adult in their lives, will be hosting a Mentor Appreciation Celebration for Lowcountry mentors. The event will take place Thursday, April 23 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Academic Magnet High School Cafeteria, located at 5109 W. Enterprise Street in North Charleston.

Kicking off at 6 p.m., the event will feature food catered by Willie Jewell's Old School Bar-B-Q and social time for mentors. This will be followed by a speech from John C. Read, Chief Executive Officer of the Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative, which works to ensure every child in the tri-county region will graduate from college prepared for future education or employment in the modern workforce. The student chorus from North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School will give a special performance during the celebration. Concluding the event will be a raffle featuring prizes donated by local businesses. Guests will include mentors, school officials, donors and youth volunteers from organizations across the Lowcountry.

The event, currently in its sixth year, aims to celebrate the dedicated individuals across the Lowcountry who devote their time to mentoring youth. Mentors help ensure their mentees have a brighter future by aiding in the development of social and emotional skills, providing college and career guidance and enabling them to develop a positive relationship with a caring adult. Several studies have displayed the positive effects of mentoring, including better school attendance and a decreased risk of using alcohol and drugs.

The headlining sponsor for this year's celebration will be South Carolina Federal Credit Union (SCFCU). In addition to sponsoring this event, SCFCU supports Be a Mentor through additional event sponsorships and employee volunteer hours.

Mentors volunteering at any organization in the Charleston-area are invited to attend. Nearly 300 mentors from Charleston, Berkley and Dorchester counties are expected to attend this year's celebration. The event is free of charge to mentors and a guest. Mentors can RSVP at [www.beamentornow.org](http://www.beamentornow.org).

To learn more about the Mentor Appreciation Celebration or Be a Mentor and its programs, visit [www.beamentornow.org](http://www.beamentornow.org).

### **About Be a Mentor**

Founded in 2004, Be a Mentor is a nonprofit organization headquartered in North Charleston, SC. There are currently five signature programs being implemented in various schools throughout the Lowcountry. The Lunch Buddy program fills the need for in-school mentoring for elementary school children. Project SHINE focuses on career exploration, academic success and teaches the importance of setting and reaching goals at the middle school grade levels. The Career Path program matches mentors with high school students interested in similar career areas. The Academic Mentoring program matches mentors with youth living at the Carolina Youth Development Center (CYDC) to offer academic support as well as life mentoring. The Math Buddies program at JIES matches adult tutors with students in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade to improve basic math skills. For more information, visit [www.beamentornow.org](http://www.beamentornow.org).

###