

PROCLAMATION
of the
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT



WHEREAS, January is National Mentoring Month and provides an opportunity to raise community awareness of the importance of mentoring and recognize the efforts of mentoring programs, the mentors and their mentees; and

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast celebrates 51 years of service to over 4,000 youth in Humboldt County who have needed and wanted mentors; and

WHEREAS, the future of Humboldt rests on the success of its children and youth; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help develop personal strength and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting relationship; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, research shows that young people who are matched with a caring adult through a quality mentoring program are: 46% less likely to use illegal drugs, 27% less likely to start drinking, 52% less likely to skip school, and are more trusting of their parents or guardians;

WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to the social, emotional and cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully; and

WHEREAS, our community has many individuals, teachers, community volunteers, and so many other who support the mentoring movement and work selflessly to improve our children's odds for success; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate all the efforts of these past and present local heroes and say "thank you" for supporting children facing challenging circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim **January 2020 as "National Mentoring Month"** and encourages all Humboldt County citizens to promote the creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives, and for Humboldt County residents to honor the role models in their lives by becoming mentors to youth in their community.

January 7, 2020

Chair, Estelle Fennell