SAIL/ASPIRE Mentoring Program Guide

SAIL Program Background:
Back in 2005, the UO debated heavily about how to increase diversity on campus. The Economics department decided to do something concrete, and created the Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) to address diversity from a socio-economic standpoint.

The SAIL program encourages students who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs to attend college by introducing them to university life through free weeklong summer camps throughout their high school career.

SAIL has grown from 15 to 180 students, one camp has grown to 10, and we’ve gone from 10 faculty volunteers to more than 200. We pride ourselves on our faculty who volunteer their time.

SAIL collaborates with the ASPIRE mentoring program to provide college preparatory mentoring with our SAIL high school students. UO students meet weekly with SAIL students in their high schools to work on goal-setting, tutoring, scholarship and college searches and college preparedness.

The Mentor Program:
UO SAIL/ASPIRE Mentors assist students in understanding the college process. This includes helping with academic support, goal setting, and encouraging students to make their own choices. Mentors may find themselves working on academic tutoring, ACT/SAT practice, communication skills, college searches, scholarship exploration, college essays, job exploration, etc. This is not a buddy relationship.

Additional mentor training and SAIL events, including student panel presentations, campus tours, or dinners are also offered.

Program Goals:
- Providing additional academic support
- Assisting students in setting personal academic and career goals
- SAT training, skill booster & practice opportunities
- College application navigation
- Assistance with scholarship essays
- Empowering youth to take responsibility for their own futures

Program Length:
Fall, Winter & Spring terms. Mentors are strongly encouraged to volunteer for the academic year.

Mentor Expectations:
- Commit to two hours weekly.
- Track interactions with high school students using the ASPIRE tracker located in your handbook.
- Inform Lara Fernandez at #541-346-8378 or #541-225-8394 immediately if you are unable to meet with your mentee so she can contact the school.
• Be on time!
• Act in a positive and appropriate manner.
• Refrain from talking about inappropriate subjects (i.e. skipping classes, drinking/drugs, dating relationships, or partying) in the presence of mentee.
• Stay within areas that are visible to other adults and do not take mentee off of the assigned school grounds, or into a vehicle.
• Attend periodic training sessions.
• Refrain from cell phone use and texting during mentoring program.
• Develop supportive roles for these students that is restricted to the high school campus during the mentorship-scheduled hours. Outside contact is discouraged between mentors and high school students. Do not give out personal contact information including phone number, email or Facebook page.
• Report any concerns about your mentee's well being to the site coordinator and Lara Fernandez, at 541-346-8378 or 541-225-8394.
• **There is a zero tolerance policy on illegal substance use or possession and weapon use or possession at the SAIL/ASPIRE Mentoring Program.**

Confidentiality Policy:
As a mentor, you will likely learn a lot about the private matters of your mentee and his or her family. There will be times when you want to talk to roommates, friends or relatives about what is happening in your relationship with the mentee or what you know. This is where confidentiality comes in.

Eugene is "small town America." You never know when you are talking to someone's cousin, sister-in-law, neighbor, co-worker, babysitter, significant other, etc.

A person who has probably had a very difficult time trusting many people in his or her life has entrusted you with private information. Please respect the family's right to keep some matters private. If you need to talk, call or make arrangement to see your site coordinator, Lara Fernandez.

Confidentiality does not prevent you from disclosing information or evidence of a harmful situation for you or your mentee to the APPROPRIATE people. It is the law that you report all cases of potential abuse.

**GUIDELINES FOR CHILD ABUSE DISCLOSURE**
Tell the school's counselor immediately, and then contact Lara Fernandez at laraf@uoregon.edu! In Oregon, any suspicion of abuse or neglect, which occurs to anyone under the age of 18, must be reported to the Dept. of Human Services. The school will follow with an investigation of the report and assist you, the child and DHS in any way.

Please understand that once this step is taken, further information may not be available to the mentor for confidentiality reasons. Please respect this. The SAIL staff have the best of intentions to help these children and will do everything possible to improve the situation for the child.