***Building Bridges to Success (BB2S)***

***Education and Mentoring Program***

**Important Information for Becoming a Mentee**

***(“Frequently Asked Questions”)***

**What is the Queen City Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women? (QCMC)**

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women was established in New York City in 1981 to serve as a united voice and advocate for black women and girls. Today, the organization leverages a structure of 50+ chapters across the nation to advance its mission.

Charlotte’s Queen City Metropolitan Chapter (QCMC) is a volunteer women’s organization that delivers programs to educate and engage the community in the areas of health, education and economic empowerment. The organization also advocates for policies that promote leadership development, access and equity in these areas. Signature QCMC programs include the “Building Bridges to Success Education Mentoring Program,” the “My Sister’s Keeper Economic Empowerment Symposium,” and Healthy Living events.”

**What is the purpose of the Building Bridges to Success program?**

QCMC is part of a national network that is committed to delivering and sustaining transformational programs that respond to the critical needs of black women and girls. “Building Bridges to Success (BB2S)” was launched in 2013 to connect high school girls (“Mentees”) with caring adult role models (“Mentors”) who assist them with setting, pursuing and achieving realistic academic and personal goals. The program aspires to empower Mentees to realize their full potential and achieve success in all areas of their lives.

**How does the program work?**

BB2S uses a group mentoring program model where participants are part of a vibrant and cohesive community of Mentors, Mentees and program coordinators. The program also incorporates smaller “Success Teams” that partner 2 Mentors with 1 Mentee in order to focus more closely on individual goal-setting and achievement. The small success teams also foster greater responsibility and accountability for Mentees and Mentors.

As part of the process of being accepted as a Mentee, each student is required to complete the Mentee Application Form and answer pertinent questions designed to assist program coordinators with pairing Mentees with Mentors. This process helps to facilitate accurate placement and matching of interests and skill sets to establish long-lasting, trusting and beneficial relationships between Mentees and Mentors

**Who are the Mentors and why do they want to be a part of the program?**

The Mentors of BB2S are trusted members of the Queen City Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. Mentors participating in this program are judiciously selected and identified as being persons who are passionate about helping black girls to develop and realize their individual gifts and talents. Our Mentors are mothers, professionals, business owners, community volunteers and educators whose mission is to ensure that every Mentee is equipped with the knowledge and confidence to pursue her dreams and aspirations for living a healthy and productive life.

**What are the responsibilities of Mentees?**

To gain the most from being a BB2S Mentee, you must be fully committed to and engaged in the program. As a Mentee, you must make every effort to attend and fully participate in monthly meetings. Mentees will also be responsible for some independent tasks, which will need to be completed outside of the monthly meetings. These will be goal-oriented activities that support student progress.

As a Mentee, it is important for you to feel comfortable in taking the initiative to ask for help or advice to tackle challenging situations and assignments. Remember, your Mentor is there for you and dedicated to your development. You will be required to be open to coaching, feedback, and receiving guidance from your Mentor. Overall, Mentees will devote approximately 4-6 hours to the program each month. This includes the monthly meetings, which are approximately 3 hours long.

**How do Mentees benefit from participating in BB2S?**

Research shows that when youth are engaged in mentoring programs and relationships, they experience gains in social acceptance, academic attitudes and grades and show decreased substance use and abuse. They are also more likely to attend college and continue their education more than their counterparts – which ultimately positively impacts their long-term earning potential and economic security.

BB2S provides essential tools and resources to enable Mentees to set, pursue, and achieve positive goals. The program also explores social issues that are pertinent to women and girls and instills the importance of community service and engagement. Through BB2S, Mentees gain knowledge and develop skills that can positively impact their lifelong success.

**What type of activities will be offered through BB2S?**

Mentors and Mentees convene monthly (during the months of October–June) for leadership, cultural and educational activities. This may include enrichment workshops, community service, or visits to cultural events and venues. Between meetings, Mentees are asked to complete varied endeavors, such as goal-setting and personal reflections, that are designed to further advance their personal growth. All BB2S activities are intentionally and meticulously designed to be highly engaging and student-centered.

**Who pays for the BB2S activities?**

There is no cost associated with your participation. The Queen City Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women will assume financial responsibility for activities by participating Mentees.

**Can parents or other family members attend BB2S activities?**

Although parents and family will be invited and encouraged to participate in some designated BB2S events, attendance at the majority of monthly activities is limited to Mentors and Mentees. BB2S aspires to create a trusting and nurturing “community” for Mentees to thrive. The exclusive time and space that BB2S Mentors and Mentees share together is critical to achieving program goals. Also, BB2S Mentors and coordinators cannot be responsible for anyone except their Mentees.

**How can parents or other family members learn more about QCMC?**

The Queen City Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women is a volunteer nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of Black women and girls in the areas of health, education, and economic empowerment. To that end, the organization provides programming activities and events for the Charlotte-metro community designed to enhance awareness and provide positive educational experiences in these areas. Mentees are encouraged and welcomed to participate as volunteers at these events, as community service hours may be awarded to participating Mentees. These events are open to the public, and friends and family members of BB2S Mentees are also encouraged to attend. As programming becomes available, Mentees will be provided with information to share with family, friends, and fellow students. More general information about QCMC is available online at [www.ncbw-qcmc.org](http://www.ncbw-qcmc.org).

**What should I do if I cannot attend a BB2S meeting or event?**

Mentees should call or text their Mentors as soon as they determine that they are unable to attend a scheduled BB2S activity. Be sure to keep the phone number of your Mentors handy so that you can call them when needed.