



Award Winning Mentor

The Scott Mentorship Golf Tournament Group celebrates, promotes and fund raises for mentoring and affiliated military organizations. The Scott Mentorship Golf Tournament Group is composed of members who served at Scott Air Force Base during the 1980s receiving extraordinary mentorship from “Outstanding” mentors. They host a golf tournament every year to raise money for local organizations including the Friends Mentoring Program. Jamie Bigby was selected to receive their “Outstanding Mentor” award!

Jamie is a mentor to a Senior at McIntosh High School. He is currently an adjunct professor at Morehouse College and Georgia State University teaching intro to sociology classes. He just received his Masters of Arts in Sociology and is actively pursuing his PHD at Georgia State in Sociology. He hopes to become a professor.

Jamie believes that mentoring is not only a part of his job but is a huge part of who he is. “Mentors are essential. If I didn’t have mentors that pulled me aside and said ‘hey I see you’, I don’t think I would be here”, Jamie said confidently. Mentorship is the driving force behind why he pursued a career in teaching.

Thank you for choosing to give back to your community Jamie and Congratulations!





REACH Georgia: From a REACH Georgia Mentor

It's almost time for the election process to begin for this year's round of REACH Georgia scholars. REACH Georgia is a statewide needs-based mentorship and scholarship program. It provides students who may need social and financial support on their journey to prepare for college. When REACH Georgia scholars graduate with at least a 2.5 GPA and maintain good behavior and attendance, they receive a \$10,000 scholarship which can be used at any Hope-eligible college, university, or technical school in Georgia. Many of these students may be the first in their families to go to college. REACH GA program mentors provide students with someone to talk to and confide in as they take steps towards what they are inspired to do after graduation.

Lea Agnew is a REACH Georgia mentor who has been a part of the scholarship program since it began in Fayette County Schools in 2019. She began with an 8th grade student at Booth Middle School and now her mentee is a sophomore at McIntosh High School. Lea is a freelance writer and has been for 40 years. She initially heard about the mentoring program from a friend and she is so happy that she did.

When Lea first started mentoring she was apprehensive. She wasn't sure if there would be a connection between her and her mentee. She was encouraged to simply show up each week. Since she's done that simple act of being there consistently, she has connected with her mentee and has seen her grow and change over the years.

Lea took some time to reflect on her mentee's journey. She explained, "During her last year of middle school, she was nervous about high school but she has really embraced it. She has always been confident. The biggest change I've seen in her is that her sense of what's possible has expanded a lot." Lea said that the kinds of careers or path her mentee could see herself aspiring to be has grown since they started meeting. Lea said, "There's nothing she feels like is out of the cards."

The opportunity to get to know her mentee has been a rewarding experience for Lea. She has also benefited from getting to spend time at a high school. She expressed, "To be in that environment, you see things differently. If I had not had this experience, my total exposure to kids of that age would be based on what I read." Lea mentioned what she had learned about high school students in the media did not match. "I don't understand why they dye their hair or why they wear ragged jeans and I don't have to. To me, they're just kids."

When Lea was asked what advice she would give to anyone considering becoming a REACH Georgia mentor, she responded, "You're not going to do any damage. Get in there and try. You're not going to damage the kids and they won't damage you; it'll be an opportunity. There's no reason not to."

Lea is committed to staying with her mentee until she graduates high school. She said, "Unless she fires me, I'll plan to be there for graduation."

The REACH Georgia program is a great opportunity for students to have one-on-one, consistent, support from a community member mentor as well as an academic counselor. Lea believes that the program is organized in a way that can really set up students for success. She added, "There's one thing to dangle a carrot in front of a kid. There's another thing to give them a cookbook and lead them through how to use what they are given." The REACH Georgia program provides students with a variety of support to inspire students to pursue further education.



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ON THE REACH
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