

This speech was delivered to 40 Minnesota business leaders

Welcome to the Residence and thank you for attending this important effort.

This is a tough time at the capitol but critical needs go on and this is why I want to take the time and show my support of the mentoring initiatives of the Partnership.

I'm here today to ask you to invest-to invest in our kids-and to invest in our future.

I understand that the Business Partnership and the Mentoring Partnership teamed up nearly five years ago to promote youth mentoring among MBP members.

Last year about 40 MBP members supported mentoring in one way or another, which reached roughly 7,000 Minnesota kids.

That's great, but I see a lot of room for improvement.

I'm told that Partnership members employ some 370,000 Minnesotans.

Convince just 1 percent of those employees to get involved in mentoring and you'll increase the number of kids being mentored by more than 50 percent.

That's Ron Turner's goal for the year, and it is why he asked me to invite you here for breakfast today.

My job here is to help raise the importance of mentoring and to get it on your radar screens, to tell you that mentoring is one of the most effective ways to address problems like truancy and dropout rates, poor academic performance, juvenile crime, and in the long run, poverty, homelessness and dependence on government programs.

I read an article in last weekend's paper that I'd like to share with you. Please take it with you, read it, and you'll get a good idea of what mentoring can do for not only a child and society, but for you.

In the article it mentions e-mentoring, which links mentors and students by e-mail and the Internet. Programs like e-mentoring are a good example of how even the busiest of us can contribute.

If your company is involved in mentoring, that's great. It gives you something to build on.

If your company isn't involved in mentoring, get involved. Ask the Mentoring Partnership to help you start a program. Or invite them in to recruit some of your employees for one of the dozens of programs that are looking for mentors.

Governor Jesse Ventura
Speech to Encourage Mentoring
Governor's Residence, St. Paul
June 27, 2001



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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank you for coming today.