The transition from childhood and adolescence to young adulthood and a career path has become far too perilous and unpredictable for many of the country’s youth. In spite of our nation’s considerable resources, too many of our youth are impacted by poverty and community violence, too many of our students struggle to complete their education, and too many young adults have trouble finding a career foothold in our current economy. Clearly, we must do more to nurture youth through their challenges, ensure their personal and educational development, and support.

Three Companies Who Are Giving To Mentoring this Thanksgiving - Join Them!

3M

As a leader in the manufacturing sector, 3M has used its experience building successful products to develop an impressive suite of youth mentoring programs and activities. At a national level, 3M partners with leading K-12 STEM and business organizations. At its St. Paul, Minnesota, headquarters, the full diversity of its mentoring and educational investments shines through. In addition to their science-focused educational and experiential programs, thousands of 3M volunteers are involved in mentoring activities through the 3M−St. Paul Public School Partnership. In addition to this direct mentoring involvement, 3M has been a trusted partner of MENTOR Minnesota, supporting its annual training conferences and capacity-building efforts, such as the National Quality Mentoring System.

IBM

IBM has supported a wide variety of educational investments; since 2003, 17 million volunteer hours have been logged in the company’s On Demand Communities initiative, which includes its involvement in mentoring. Over the years, IBM has developed creative and flexible ways to invest in youth mentoring, especially via online school-based mentoring. Its MentorPlace program works directly with schools (or with nonprofit partners working in the schools) to provide both online mentoring with employees and face-to-face...
interactions with mentors either at IBM or at school sponsored events, which the company views as critical in-person meetings. But the company is equally proud of its e-mentoring platform’s ability to help youth develop soft skills, such as communication skills, relationship skills and addressing life challenges.

Comcast has a deep and far-ranging investment in youth mentoring and offers an excellent example of what a multifaceted approach to mentoring engagement can look like. Through national partnerships with organizations like City Year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and Boys and Girls Clubs, Comcast provides both financial support and mentoring opportunities for local employees. In addition to working with these established nonprofits, Comcast also has an in-house internship program where young adults are brought into the company and are mentored by staff and management. Comcast feels that much of its success is predicated on two simple factors: making sure employees have time off to volunteer and illustrating the importance of volunteering through the involvement of the company’s executive leadership, some of whom serve as mentors themselves.

Join these companies as well as thousands of other small and mid-sized businesses who are finding ways to give something great this Thanksgiving – the power of mentoring. For more information, please contact MENTOR Colorado Executive Director, Hannah Krieger.

The content from this series was derived from a MENTOR and EY report called: Mentoring: at the crossroads of education, business and community