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Laurel Mentoring Program Increases GPA's and Expands Statewide

CONTRIBUTED BY DELAWARE ADOLESCENT PROGRAM, INC. • JANUARY 27, 2009

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Laurel officials proclaimed January as Mentoring Month in conjunction with the National Mentoring Month effort. The Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI) has partnered with Creative Mentoring to run the Laurel Kids Connection Mentoring Program for the past year.

DAPI's mentoring program in Laurel has raised the GPA of students by 10%. It has expanded to serve over 50 students, which is a success that was more than anticipated. The mentoring has expanded to include both in school and after school programs. The mentoring program is made possible through a generous federal grant facilitated through Senator Tom Carper and former Senator **Joe Biden**.

As a part of DAPI's 40th Anniversary of ensuring self-sufficiency and academic success for Delaware's pregnant and parenting teens, the mentoring program will expand to serve DAPI's pregnant and parenting teen population throughout Delaware.

Research has shown that programs that rely on volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for leading a healthy and productive life. DAPI's program demonstrates that academic success can be added to the results of a caring adult role model in child's life.

To find out more information about The Laurel Kids Connection Mentoring Program or DAPI's work throughout Delaware, visit www.dapi.org or call 302-629-7790. Volunteer to be a mentor today!

About the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI)
Research is clear that only 40% of teenage mothers finish high school and less than 5% continue with any higher education program. In addition, they and their children are more likely to live in poverty, and the babies are more likely to have a low birth weight and face higher risk of infant death and developmental delays. Teen pregnancy continues to be a growing problem, particularly in the State of Delaware, which is well above the national average. For Latino, African American teens, Delaware ranks 3 and 5 respectively in terms of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the nation.

The Delaware Adolescent Program is the only comprehensive educational program in Delaware for pregnant and parenting teens combining education, social services, healthcare and childcare in one nurturing setting. Our work is to ensure that no child is alone in facing teen pregnancy and that not one

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child thinks her dreams are over or her productivity is halted because of one mistake. We give our children hope, tools, education and support to stop the cycle of teen pregnancy once and for all and to bring productive, educated employees into the workplace and our communities.

The LKCMF is a new initiative of DAPI, designed to foster good choices and a strong foundation for success in all participants.

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