



## **Mentorship Program**

### **Purpose**

Connect adults from varying backgrounds with Africa's Tomorrow Scholars to help those students succeed. The mentors do not necessarily have to be professionals who are in the same field as the students, but they do need to be able to guide the student in finding the answers to their academic and professional questions. The mentors will also be a source of emotional support for the students as they adjust to and navigate life in the US and in the US education system.

### **Mentor Requirements**

#### *General*

- Learn more about Africa's Tomorrow and what it takes to be a mentor
- Participate in periodic (just once every few months) group chats with all mentors to share ideas, successes, and failures, (and to mentor each other)
- Mentors reach out to their networks to help connect students to opportunities
- Mentors are expected to hold details of their conversations in confidence so that the mentee feels safe in opening up and being vulnerable

#### *Before the student arrives*

- Once an applicant has completed the TOEFL (with a minimum score of 65), a mentor will be matched with the potential scholar and will help research schools and scholarships that the student can apply for
- Mentor will be connecting with both the Peace Corps Volunteer Sponsor and the student at this point. The Peace Corps Sponsor, prospective student, and mentor(s) will collaborate together to decide which options would be best for the student

#### *After student is accepted into a US college*

- Once the student has been accepted to a school, the support team then widens to include the student, Mentor, Peace Corps Volunteer, international student advisor and academic advisor. All parties should be in contact with each other
- Self education by the mentor about what the student is studying to help determine if it is reasonable and the requirements that the student will have to meet to make their area of study successful
- Arrival day welcome call from the mentor, or even greet at the airport if possible
- Connect with the students using email, video chat, text message, phone and/or other means
- 1 video chat every 1-2 months

# AFRICA'S TOMORROW

- Regular email correspondence, especially during the months that the video chat is not occurring
- Mentor should know the classes that the student is taking and any academic struggles that the student is facing in order to help the student navigate through those struggles with time management advice, seeking out help from tutors, office hours, etc.
- Identify the questions that the student needs answered and help come up with how the student can get the questions answered
- Hold the students accountable to follow through
- Identify short term goals for the students and check back with the students on their progress

## *Preparing for the future*

- Assist the student in identifying long term goals
- Help the student obtain knowledge about internships and job opportunities
- How can their long-term goals be transferred to their home country?
- Who do they need to reach out to in their home country to get more information about job opportunities
- If they want graduate education how will they get funding and what are the visa requirements?

## **Student Requirements**

- Be present and responsible
- Be honest, especially about struggles
- Ask questions, then ask more questions
- Complete the tasks that you and the mentor have come up with
- Be open to challenges
- Make the time to connect with your mentor
- Be timely and do not delay in correspondence