**“Connecting the Dots” Skype Mentoring Program**

As a Service Coordinator for **Berea College GEAR UP Promise Neighborhood**, I see daily the need for mentoring support for the students in our middle schools.  The schools that I service are part of the "Promise Neighborhood" targeted schools (Clay-Owsley-Jackson).  The schools are located in high poverty counties in Southeastern Kentucky, a few  of which can be found on the Top 50 "poorest counties in the nation" listing, one of which is #1 and another ranked #4.

Although many students don't officially drop out of school until high school, the student's disengagement with their schoolwork can almost always be traced back to an earlier age.  If the problem isn't addressed prior to attending high school, those students will almost surely be overwhelmed once they enter high school and are very likely to give up and drop out.

The “Connecting the Dots” Skype Mentoring Program was developed to prevent this by engaging these targeted 8th and/or 9th grade students with college student mentors, volunteers, who will provide young people with positive role models since they who have stayed in school and are now fully engaged in college.  This could be accomplished through 30 minute weekly "skype sessions" with the 8th and/or 9th grade students.

Not only would the 8th and/or 9th grade students benefit greatly from this mentorship experience, but it would also provide those college students who are seeking a career in education a rewarding experience that they will never forget.  This would also look great on their future resume and serves as a great service leadership project for educational majors.

The “Connecting the Dots” Skype Mentoring program presently includes college mentors from **Wabash College**, **Hanover College**, **Eastern Kentucky University**, **Ohio University**, **Eastern Michigan University**, **Morehead State University, Ball State University** and **Harvard University.**

**2014 “Connecting the Dots” Skype Mentoring Times Available**

**Owsley County High School**

* 8:25-8:55 am on Friday
* 9:25-9:55 am on Fridays
* 11:25-11:55 am on Fridays

**Clay County High School**

* 10:05-10:35 am on Wednesdays

**Clay County Middle School**

* 10:45-11:20 am on Mondays

**Jackson County High School**

* 8:15-8:45 am on Tuesdays
* 9:15-9:45 am on Tuesdays
* 10:15-10:45 am on Tuesdays

**Jackson County Middle School**

* 2:15-2:45 pm on Thursdays

**Mentoring sessions will occur weekly. Each mentor will be matched to one mentee 1:1**