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**Virginia nonprofit, Undaunted Futures, partners with Fairfax County Public Schools to provide “best-in-class” 1-on-1 mentorship to local students**

*Innovative mentoring program works exclusively with underserved youth of color; promotes racial and economic equality and empowers youth*

ASHBURN, VIRGINIA -- Undaunted Futures, an innovative, all-volunteer led nonprofit organization dedicated to youth mentorship, announces today its partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to provide 1-on-1 mentorship to underserved students across the county.

The innovative program pairs highly successful and caring adult mentors with student mentees through skills assessments, life skills training, and ongoing mentorship support throughout a student’s educational path. Undaunted Futures seeks to promote racial and economic equality and youth empowerment in one of the nation’s largest school divisions.

“We believe our student-centered mentorship program will lead to more confident and caring global citizens who are growing up near the nation’s capital, and we are proud to partner with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)”, said Rich Krygiel, Co-Founder and Director of Undaunted Futures. “This partnership will expand our program in one of America’s most diverse student populations.”

Adult mentor candidates undergo an extensive selection screening process and complete a proprietary training program before pairing with students in the district. Throughout the program, mentors and mentees meet regularly, and in many cases, develop lifelong relationships that may lead to career ideas, networking, and future employment opportunities. Each mentor-mentee relationship is individualized to the student, and throughout the program, students can earn badges of merit that are valued by trade schools, community colleges, universities, and employers alike.

FCPS is one of America’s largest school districts with 198 schools and centers, serving over 180,000 students in Pre-K through 12th grade who speak more than 200 languages. Their MentorWorks program connects students with adult mentors and business partners to ensure that all students, regardless of their background or economic status, can achieve their goals and live successful lives, both personally and professionally..

“The primary mission of the MentorWorks program is to eliminate gaps in opportunity, access, and achievement and to connect every student to a caring, responsible adult,” said Martha Macdonald, Mentoring Specialist with FCPS. “We are excited to welcome Undaunted Futures into our family of community partners. Their comprehensive mentoring format is innovative and unique, focusing on life skills and social emotional development. We are looking forward to watching this program grow and expand as we work together to reach our common goal ‘one mentee at a time’.”

In addition to the FCPS MentorWorks program, Undaunted Futures has partnerships with Mentor City, Xello, Wondrium, Proforma Screening Solutions, and the National Dropout Prevention Center. For more

information on the Undaunted Futures organization, please visit: <https://undauntedfutures.org> or follow them on Facebook and LinkedIn. For more information about the Fairfax County Public Schools' various mentorship programs, please visit <https://www.fcps.edu/get-involved/volunteer-fcps/volunteer-opportunities/become-mentor> or contact the FCPS Office of Communication and Community Relations at [mediarelations@fcps.edu](mailto:mediarelations@fcps.edu).

Members of the Undaunted Futures Board of Directors and Advisory Council are available for media interviews and can be reached at [info@undauntedfutures.org](mailto:info@undauntedfutures.org).

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*Undaunted Futures provides 1:1 mentoring to underserved youth of color and those impacted by poverty. We combine an array of best-in-class education resources, a proprietary mentor training program, and experiential learning to create a customized mentorship program designed to improve confidence, self-esteem, and goal achievement.*