

THE HEMI HERALD

*The Higher Education Mentoring Initiative
Newsletter*

Inside This Issue

- 1- 'Suit Up Job Ready Event'
- 2- 'Survey Says: HEMI Research Update'
- 2- 'Kentucky Derby Fundraiser'
- 2- 'Action Group Updates'
- 3- 'Celebration Dinner Review'
- 3- '1st HEMI Scholarship Recipients'
- 4- 'Story of Success'
- 5- 'HEMI Calendar'

Inside Every Issue

- 1- HEMI Defined
- 1- HEMI in Progress
- 5- Calendar of Events
- 6- Get Involved
- 6- Acknowledgements
- 6- Our Mission

HEMI Defined

The Higher Education Mentoring Initiative (HEMI) helps prepare foster youth for educational opportunities beyond high school. The HEMI program recruits, trains, and supports mentors to establish positive long-term relationships with foster youth. HEMI mentors assist, encourage, and support student academic achievement, and also help create a direct pathway to higher education.

HEMI is a partnership between Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, and Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development.



HEMI in Progress

- There has been great interest in the HEMI housing program in conjunction with Lighthouse Youth Services. So far, almost ten placements have been initiated and there are only six apartments that remain available. If any mentee is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact the HEMI Housing Support Coordinator, David Durr for further information on the application process and apartments that are still available. **David Durr can be contacted at: ddurr@lys.org or 513-487-6763** (Please see page 2 for more HEMI Action Group updates.)
- HEMI is launching a parent support group for mentees and their children. In partnership with A Home Within, clinical psychologist Lisa Leonard, is committed to hosting and facilitating this support group. By participating, mentees will have an opportunity to socialize with other parents while learning and sharing pertinent information related to their child's development. By participating in this parenting support group, mentees will have special access to Kara's Closet. Kara's Closet is a special space located at UC that is full of donated children's books, toys, and clothes from HEMI mentor, Kara Graham. **If you would like to donate to Kara's Closet, please contact: HEMImentors@uc.edu.**
- The annual Ohio Reach Summit is set to occur on May 13, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. Every year, the summit brings together representatives from agencies and organizations throughout the state to collaborate with the purpose of recruiting and retaining emancipated foster youth in higher education. Ohio Reach also assists in facilitating a network of foster care liaisons at Ohio universities and community colleges for support of students in the academic environment. HEMI has been honored with hosting breakout sessions within the summit in past years, presenting the HEMI model and advocating for its students. This year, HEMI has been asked to participate again and will premiere the film produced and introduced at this year's Celebration Dinner (Please see page 3 for more information on the celebration event).

HEMI Event 'Suits Up' to Provide Employment Preparation Skills



Due to the great success of last year's Boot Camp employment event, HEMI will hold 'Suit Up: Preparing for Employment' to further build upon the tool kits previously introduced. This event will prepare HEMI mentees with the skills and materials needed to secure employment. The Employment Action Group wants to ensure that HEMI mentees are equipped with the basic essentials. This event will provide 3 interactive workshops focused on interviewing skills, résumé writing, and appropriate clothing for the workplace. All mentees in attendance will leave with practice interviewing questions, copies of their résumé and an outfit from Dress for Success or Suit Yourself! Students will receive their own business cards and a goodie bag. Special thanks to the Employment Action Group Leader, Monica McCullough and members Julie Miller and Suzy Marcus for their continuing contributions.

**The event will occur Thursday, April 11, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati.
All mentors and mentees are welcome!**
Please contact the HEMI Program Coordinator to RSVP: hementors@uc.edu

Survey Says...HEMI Research Update

HEMI is pleased to announce that the creation of a database is complete and ready for data entry. This is a significant step in working toward our goal of establishing a best practice model and producing published work about the program so other communities can integrate our model into their services for foster youth. All good programs self evaluate and reflect best practices. This database will help us achieve our goal to evaluate our program by housing comprehensive information that is pertinent to our outcomes. HEMI staff attended a training on using the database to begin tracking critical information that will assist in measuring the program's outcomes. HEMI would like to again acknowledge **Kara Graham** for her tireless efforts in facilitating the creation of the database. Over the years, the program has received invaluable input from Mrs. Graham that has allowed the process of evaluation and improvements in the program to progress.



HEMI hopes to continue this momentum moving forward as the project soon will officially be implemented. HEMI would also like to extend a special thank you to those mentors who have taken their own time to complete the surveys distributed thus far. The program is driven by and adjusted for the needs of both mentors and mentees. Your input is critical in keeping the program operation optimal as well as helping all participants achieve their goals!

-Daniel Hargraves, HEMI Intern

Run for the Roses III: Kentucky Derby Fundraiser Planning at the Starting Gate



Run for the Roses

May 4, 2013

4:30pm-7:30pm

You are cordially invited to the 3rd Annual Run for the Roses: A Kentucky Derby Fundraising Event, hosted by **County Commissioner, Greg Hartmann**. Through the overwhelming generosity of community partners and attendees, last year's event brought in over \$12,000 and made the HEMI Scholarship Fund possible (see page 3 for the full story). Please join us on May 4th at the Peterloon Estate, 8605 Hopewell Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 for entertainment, culinary delights, and drinks. **All mentors will receive a complimentary ticket.**

There is a need for assistance and volunteers, specifically to assist with the silent auction.

If you would like to help with the 2013 Derby, please contact **Kellie Wise: 946-4405**.

To donate, purchase tickets or for further information, please visit: <http://www.uc.edu/cechpass/hemi.html>

Action Group Updates

The HEMI Action Group met January 29th to discuss the developments with the education and employment components of the program. It was found that more students attended the job readiness event than the previous education fair. The group has proposed an integrated effort in order to raise awareness for student networking and the resources available for all mentees. As a result, the Education Committee, led by **Linda Grayman**, will attend the 'Suit Up' employment readiness event on April 11th to help students create their resumé as well as provide critique and feedback for those with existing resumes and job portfolios.

The Education Committee will also distribute an evaluation at the event to gauge students' priorities in their academic pursuits as well as provide a needs assessment for service. This evaluation hopes to collect information on student knowledge about the many types of post-secondary education and programs available to them in addition to evaluating the costs and investments in time and resources necessary to pursue their interests in the field.

The next Action Group Meeting will occur Thursday, April 18 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

If you would like more information on how to become involved with the Action Groups, please email: hemimentors@uc.edu



HEMI student, Dominique Springs (left) congratulates Director Moira Weir (right), recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Leadership award. Photographed by Dottie Stover.

3rd Annual Celebration Dinner a Blockbuster Event

On January 31, 2013 the HEMI community came together to honor and celebrate the dedication of HEMI mentors, mentees, and community partners. This year's event featured our first film production, starring mentors and mentees discussing their experiences with the HEMI program. **YOU CAN STILL BE FEATURED IN OUR FUTURE FILMS!** The film production inspired our movie premiere theme. Attendees walked a red carpet and had opportunities for group photos with paparazzi. Moreover, attendees were provided with props to add a little fun to their photo shoots with a professional photographer, Dottie Stover (see right).

For the first time ever, two of HEMI's star leaders, Director Moira Weir (left) and Commissioner Greg Hartmann, were presented with 2013 Distinguished Leadership Awards. The 2013 Distinguished Leadership Awards were created to honor the exemplary leadership, vision, and commitment demonstrated by Director Weir and Commissioner Hartmann when they developed and implemented the HEMI Program. Many lives have been enhanced by their forward thinking and belief that foster youth can pursue higher education.



HEMI Student, Qur'an Conners (left) with HEMI Liaison, Sarah Mangan (right) celebrated on January 31st. Photographed by Dottie Stover.

Recipients of the 1st HEMI Scholarship Awards Announced for 2013

In addition to Director Weir and Commissioner Hartmann being presented with 2013 HEMI Herald Awards, 12 HEMI mentees were awarded scholarships. Last year's Kentucky Derby Fundraiser brought in \$12,000, which in turn were used to lighten the financial burden for HEMI students, in the form of scholarships. The following students were awarded scholarships:

Antonio Allen graduated from Virtual High School and studied Nursing at Cincinnati State. He is now a junior at Johnson State College in Vermont. He plans to graduate with a degree in Health Sciences in May of 2014. He enjoys practicing Kung Fu and Tai Chi.

Jaliesha Brown graduated from Woodward Career and Technical High School and is now a freshman at Wright State University. She is in Wright State's Independent Scholars Program and serves on the Student Government.

Hydeia Fields is a senior at Woodward Career and Technical High School and has been on the honor roll 10 out of 12 quarters. In the fall she plans to attend Cincinnati State to pursue her dream of becoming an occupational therapist.

Ronzell Foster graduated from Anderson High School and is now a freshman at Cincinnati State studying to become an athletic trainer. He is a member of Alpha Chi Rho and the Key Club.

Mahogany Jackson is a senior at Colerain High School and plans to study nursing after graduating. She plans to receive her STNA license so that she can work in the health profession. Mahogany is an artist and loves to decorate her own apartment.

Mariah Maxwell is a graduate of Walnut Hills High School and is now a senior at the University of Cincinnati. She will graduate in April with degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She plans to attend the Criminal Justice Master's Program at UC in the fall.

Markeema McMillan is a senior at Northwest High School and plans to attend the University of Cincinnati next year. While at UC, she plans to study Family Counseling and live in the Gen-1 Theme House. She is very involved with her Church and loves to play volleyball.

Antrece Morgan is a graduate of Woodward Career and Technical High School. Upon graduation, she attended Wright State University, however now she attends Cincinnati State. Antrece is one of the first students to live in the new HEMI Housing Program.

Charles Napier is a graduate of Colerain High School and is now a sophomore at Cincinnati State studying Criminal Justice. He loves all Cincinnati sports teams.

Dominique Springs graduated from Aiken High School and is now a junior at the College of Mount St. Joseph. She is studying communications and plans to graduate in the Spring of 2014. Dominique serves as the president of her school's Black Student Union.

Lashawnda Stevens graduated from Aiken High School and is now a freshman at Cincinnati State. She is studying to become a registered nurse. She is very involved with her church and is a member of the Hamilton County Youth Advisory Board.

Jonathan Strickland is a senior at Walnut Hills High School and has been accepted to attend Northwest Missouri State University. In the fall, he plans to study Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Jonathan has volunteered at local animal shelters to learn more about reptile rescue.



2012 HEMI Scholarship recipient Jonathan Strickland (right) with HEMI mentor, George Wharton (left). Photographed by Dottie Stover.

"I am humbled by the fact that ...[the HEMI Scholarship Committee]...has the confidence in my potential to reward me. My biggest goal in life has been to get a college degree so that I can get the dream job I've always wanted." -Jonathan Strickland

From the Perspective of Jonathan's HEMI Mentor: George Wharton

"One of Jonathan's strengths is his ability to deal with an adverse situation and not let that situation create an obstacle to him achieving his goal."

He is extremely focused on accomplishing his life goal to graduate from college and start a career.

He has an exceptional perspective on how his life experiences have helped shape his determination to succeed. I am pleased to be his mentor and I look forward to a lasting relationship." -George Wharton

About George Wharton:

George Wharton recently retired from his position as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at the University of Cincinnati (UC). Dr. Wharton was responsible for coordinating the strategic planning and implementation of the university's equal opportunity and diversity initiatives. Wharton was responsible for: the development and implementation of human resources policies and procedures related to hiring, retention and equal opportunity; the development of training and awareness programs on diversity and inclusiveness; directing the investigation and resolution of complaints of discrimination and harassment. Wharton served as the Title IX and ADA Compliance Coordinator and the university's chief liaison with state and federal compliance agencies. Wharton received the UC Just Community award given to an individual for promoting the ideals of justice. He served as Chair Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and he and his wife Eileen are certified foster parents with St. Joseph Family Ties in Cincinnati. Dr. Wharton received his Bachelor of Arts from DePaul University and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies – Educational Leadership and Systems from Union Institute & University. He is currently serving as a HEMI mentor.

A Story of Success

Jonathan Strickland is a senior at Walnut Hills High School and will graduate this spring. He plans to study Wildlife Ecology and Conservation in College. He volunteers at local animal shelters in order to learn more about reptile rescue and appropriate animal treatment. Last month, at the HEMI Celebration Dinner, Jonathan was selected as one of the recipients for the 1st HEMI Scholarship Award. Through emails, I was able to interview him about his successes and plans for college.

How are things going with your mentor?

Jonathan: Things are going very smoothly between me and my mentor, **Mr. George Wharton**. He's a really nice, dedicated mentor and I appreciate all the advice he's given me.

What colleges did you apply to?

Jonathan: I applied to a nice sized list of schools: Northwest Missouri State University, Lake Superior State University, Montana State University, Northern Michigan University, Ohio University, West Virginia University, Missouri State University, UNC-Asheville and Adrian College.

Why do you want to study Wildlife Ecology and Conservation?

Jonathan: I want to study Wildlife Ecology and Conservation because I truly have a deep passion for animals, and my undying love for them has pushed me to chase after my dream of one day protecting some of my favorite animals: rhinos, wolves, bears, jaguars, sea turtles and many more.

What is your biggest goal or dream in life?

Jonathan: My biggest goal in life has been to get a college degree so that I can get the dream job I've always wanted, a wildlife biologist. Hopefully one day I will get a job in Maine. I've been there once and I loved it so much that I hope to live there one day.

What do you fear the most in keeping you from that dream?

Jonathan: Honestly the only thing I fear in keeping me from reaching my dream is that I might die before I get a chance to accomplish it.

What role does education play in fulfilling your goals and dreams?

Jonathan: Education plays a vital role in fulfilling my goals and dreams because it is absolutely necessary for me to get a college degree in order for me to get my dream job.

How do you think your mentor could help you get closer to those goals and dreams?

Jonathan: My mentor has helped me apply for scholarships and in getting aid to help pay for my college expenses.

If your former self from 5-10 years ago were standing here in front of you, what advice would you give?

Jonathan: I would definitely say, "Keep your grades up from day one in high school. The better your GPA is the more options you have to choose where you want to go to college. A high GPA and a good ACT or SAT score will give you scholarships to almost every school in the nation."

What does the HEMI scholarship mean to you?

Jonathan: The HEMI scholarship means a lot to me. But most importantly, to me it means that all my hard work in high school paid off.

If you could say something to the scholarship committee what would it be?

Jonathan: I would tell the scholarship committee, "Thank you very much. I appreciate the huge boost that you have given me by awarding me this scholarship. But also I am humbled by the fact that you have confidence in my potential to reward me with such a scholarship. Thank you."

-Mariah Maxwell, UC Student

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March

Thursday, March 7, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m. HEMI Mentor Training: 'Resources Available to First Time Parents' Presented by Theresa Popelar, Referral Coordinator from Every Child Succeeds

April

Thursday, April 4, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m. HEMI Mentor Training: 'Employment Resources' Presented by Jean Chase, WIA Life Coach & College Access Programs at Cincinnati State

Thursday, April 11, 2013

4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Suit Up: Preparing for Employment (see page 2 for more details)

Location: University of Cincinnati

Thursday, April 18, 2013

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. HEMI Action Group Meeting

May

Thursday, May 2, 2013

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. HEMI Mentor Support Group Meeting

Saturday, May 4, 2013

4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Run for the Roses: Kentucky Derby Fundraiser

(see page 2 for more details)

Location: The Peterloon Estate, 8605 Hopewell Road, 45242

Summer (June, July, and August)

****No Mentor Trainings will occur during the summer months****

July

Thursday, July 11, 2013

3:00-5:00 p.m. ETV Session with Mentees
Location: University of Cincinnati

September

Thursday, September 5, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m. HEMI Mentor Training: 'Educational Law'

October

Thursday, October 3, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m. HEMI Mentor Training: 'Independent Living and Emancipation'

November

Thursday, November 7, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m. HEMI Mentor Training: 'Privilege and Oppression'

December

Thursday, December 12, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m. HEMI Holiday Party

All Events Occur at:
The People's Church
220 William Howard Taft
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
Unless otherwise noted

Thank You!

Thanks to ALL of the HEMI Mentors for your continued commitment!

April Alford, Lee Armstrong, Valerie Bairnsfather, Billy Bohl, Ann Brown, Kathy Brown, Lottie Burnette, Karen Christopfel, Chantelle Cunningham, Nanci Daniher, Mary Davis, Cheryl Dean, Jeff Demaree, Janice Demmerle, Janet Elfers, Rudy Forsberg, Michael Geile, Teresa Geile, Amit Ghosh, Kara Graham, Awatef Hamed, Margaret Hanson, Lorrie Jenkins, Katrina Jordan, Jane Kelley, Ruchika Khetarpal, Lyn King, Pamela Kingma, Roy Kulick, Kate Livingston, Melissa Luttmann, Rich Lynch, Susan Marcus, Monica McCullough, Kathy Moller, Melanie Moon, Jessica Nethers, Joseph Nickel, Jack Painter, Sean Pollock, Dianne Rabe, Betty Rothgeb, Shayna Royal, Mary Rudemiller, Sylvia St.Cyr, Fritz Shadley, Greg Smith, Sandra Urquhart, Cheryl Van Houten, George Wharton, Catherine Willoughby, Kathy Winters, and Susan Wisner.



SHARE YOUR NEWS!
Send in your stories about your mentoring experience.

Call (513) 556-4368 or send your news via email to the HEMI Program Coordinator, hemimentors@uc.edu

We want to feature you!

Get Involved with HEMI

- Lend your skills, time or talents
- Serve on a HEMI Committee:
 - ~Event Planning
 - ~Action Group
 - ~HEMI Newsletter
 - ~Volunteer Activities
 - ~Student Support Services
 - ~Training
 - ~Fundraising

For More Information, Contact: HEMI Program Coordinator

Annie Schellinger, MSW, LISW
CECH PASS
PO Box 210002
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0002

Phone: 513-556-4368
Fax: 513-556-1037
E-mail: hemimentors@uc.edu

HEMI Affiliates

We acknowledge and appreciate the important role that our affiliates play in supporting HEMI.

Our Affiliates are:

HEMI Advisory Board Members:

Greg Hartmann, Commissioner– Hamilton County Board of Commissioners
Moira Weir, Director– Hamilton County Job and Family Services
Greg Vehr, Vice President for Governmental Relations and University Communications– University of Cincinnati
Larry Johnson, Interim Provost & Senior Vice President, Academic Planning– University of Cincinnati
O'Dell Owens, President of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Robin White, President and CEO– Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development

HEMI Steering Committee Members:

Scott Boone, Screening and Special Assessments Section Chief – Hamilton County Job and Family Services
La Saundra Craig, Director of Financial Aid- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Amy Hollon, Communications Specialist– Hamilton County Job and Family Services
Jon Quatman, Vice President of Performance and Outcomes– Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development
Annie Schellinger, HEMI Program Coordinator
Rayma Waters, Co-Director CECH PASS– University of Cincinnati
Margie Weaver, Care Management Section Chief– Hamilton County Job and Family Services
Kellie Wise, Director of Communications- Hamilton County Board of Commissioners
Alyssa Purvis, UC Degrees Program Specialist– University of Cincinnati
Neisha Wiley, Counselor- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Monica Benton, Hamilton County Job and Family Services Ongoing Caseworker and Educational Liaison
Sarah Mangan, Hamilton County Job and Family Services Ongoing Caseworker and Educational Liaison

HEMI Liaisons:

Kara Graham, HEMI Mentor, who assists with various program projects
Daniel Hargraves, HEMI Herald Editor-In-Chief, HEMI Intern, who is pursuing his Master's Degree in Social Work
Alesha Crawley, HEMI Intern, who is pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work



OUR MISSION:

The Higher Education Mentoring Initiative (HEMI) provides Hamilton County youth a long-term academic mentoring relationship that begins in high school and is focused on awareness of, and preparation for, post-secondary education and training.

