



# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, January 2022 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people; and*

*WHEREAS, Las Cruces, NM honors volunteer mentors who support young people by showing up for them every day and demonstrating their commitment to helping them thrive; and*

*WHEREAS, mentoring programs like Kids Can of Community Action Agency, Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces, Big Brothers, Big Sisters Mountain Region, FYI Plus and Southern NM ENLACE make our communities and our state stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks; and*

*WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection; and*

*WHEREAS, mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses; and*

*WHEREAS, quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults; and*

*WHEREAS, students who meet regularly with their mentors are more than 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor; and*

*WHEREAS, youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking; and*

*WHEREAS, almost half of today's young adults report having a mentor in their youth and those rates appear to have been rising steadily over the past several decades; and*

*WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is the time of year to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring across our state and recruit caring adult mentors in Las Cruces, New Mexico.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Mayor and City Council of Las Cruces, New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2022, as:*

*“National Youth Mentoring Month”*

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Ken D. Miyagishima, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Christine Rivera*  
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Christine Rivera, City Clerk

