

GUIDANCE FOR MENTORS

What Are We Trying to Do? Encourage and support students who support Harris/Walz to reach out to other students one-on-one, through events, through canvassing, through social media, etc.

How do Mentors Contribute to Our Goal? We have developed a mnemonic to summarize what mentors can do: VALUE.

We capitalize VALUE because in addition to meaning it in its usual sense, we also have fashioned it as a mnemonic to help mentors focus on their mission. Optimally mentors help their student counterparts by

VALIDATING their work. Students will be encouraged by connecting with someone (You!) from the outside world who recognizes and values their efforts. This may be particularly the case in schools where many students may be apathetic or even antagonistic to the Democratic ticket.

AAMPLIFYING their efforts. Brainstorming with a mentee can help identify possibilities for events, speakers, meetings etc.

LINKING them with others. Through other mentors and our central organization you are likely to see opportunities for students to connect with those doing similar work at other colleges, with students from out of state who will be bussing in to help canvass, and with organizations that are doing parallel work, like registering students. We will also provide you with information on initiatives that students may choose to participate in, for example as poll watchers.

UNDERWRITING their initiatives. You may be able to recommend resources from the Pennsylvania Democratic party, to tap our organization for modest amounts of financial support (for printing leaflets, etc.), or to contribute yourself. (Note that financial contributions may require reporting.)

EDUCATING them about likely complications, costs, benefits and possibilities of different courses of action. These are students. You are older and wiser. You have experiences they do not. Your judgment matters!

General Approach: Kait is identifying student leaders at some fifty colleges and universities. She is pairing these leaders with mentors. Take the time to build a relationship with your counterpart, understanding their backgrounds, priorities and challenges. Kait remains available to help you if your student counterpart is unresponsive, unavailable or in your opinion undependable. (These things happen!).

If you have not already had an introductory meeting with your mentee, please let us know during this training Zoom and we will help to facilitate one.

Some Particulars:

- **Virtual/Physical Presence:** A majority of mentors are outside of PA, some at considerable distance. Zoom meeting, telcons and correspondence are adequate. There are obvious benefits if mentors can come to PA especially in the closing days of the campaign. We can help arrange housing -- contact Kait Ahern (kait@padems.org)
- **Spending Money:** Small amounts of money (\$20-\$200) may significantly help. Feel free to directly contribute your own. The PA State Dem Party also has an account specifically to support College Dems. Tell Nancy (nancy.bekavac@gmail.com), copying Kait and Sharon if you see a good reason for us to arrange contributions.
- **Raising Money:** This is not your responsibility as a mentor, but if you want to contribute yourself or know others who want to contribute, this link will support our efforts through the PA Dem Party:
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/padems-fr-youthoutreach>
- **Registration Deadline is October 21.** Partner organizations, such as Voters of Tomorrow and Swing Left, are willing to help host on-campus voter registration events. Please contact Kait (kait@padems.org) to be connected.
- **Voting:** [by mail, et.] Pennsylvania has more eligible college voters than any other swing state. One of the primary focuses of GenZ for Democracy is to register college Democratic voters. Therefore, the Messaging Task Force will provide you with ample materials to distribute to your chapters about voting (including campus voting posters, FAQ sheets, and short informational videos). We will also share links from partner youth voter organizations to forward to your chapter. Please contact Howard Seibel and Laura Goldenberg at hseibel2@yahoo.com and lgoldenberg62@yahoo.com for more information.
- **Out of State Students:** Please email Zachary Stier Pan at zachary.stier.pan@gmail.com
- **Additional Mentors:** At the moment we have more volunteers to be mentors than we can usefully assign. We therefore do not give priority to your recruiting others. However, if you know others who you think who are enthusiastic and well suited to this role, please refer them to Sharon Flank: sflank@infratrac.com

Key Contacts listed above:

- Nancy Bekavac, Mentor Coordinator: nancy.bekavac@gmail.com
- Kait Ahern, Youth and Campus Outreach: kait@padems.org
- Richard Danzig and Sharon Flank, Founders of GenZ for Democracy: rjdanzig@gmail.com ; sflank@infratrac.com
- Zachary Stier Pan, Out-of-state Student Coordinator: zachary.stier.pan@gmail.com

- *Howard Seibel* and *Laura Goldenberg*, Messaging Task Force Leaders:
hseibel2@yahoo.com ; lgoldenberg62@yahoo.com