Community Mentoring

Learnings 2018-2025

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PATH
Programme for Access to Higher Education

iadt
DUN LAOGHAIRE

MARINO
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

NCAD

RCSI
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
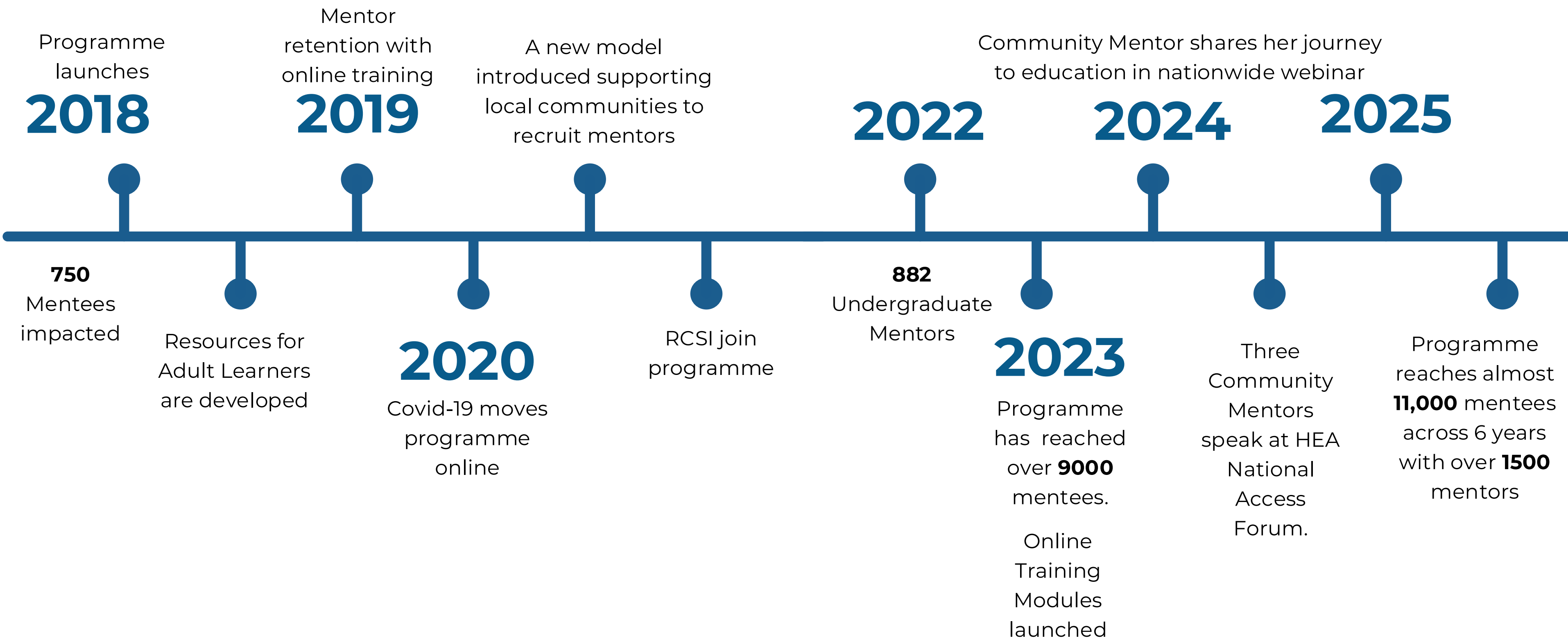The University of Dublin

UCD DUBLIN

Why Community Mentoring?

Evidence informed research from Trinity Access Programmes shows the positive outcomes associated with mentoring.

The programme aims to create regional and community-based partnerships to increase access and participation of NAP groups

Participation of students from target groups in higher education (some students belonged to multiple groups).	2018-2025
Socio-economically disadvantaged students	460
Students with a disability	167
Mature students	231
Further education award holders	123
Lone parents	105
Ethnic minorities	124
Traveller Students	4
TOTAL	1214

Timeline

2018
Programme launches

750 Mentees impacted

Resources for Adult Learners are developed

2019
Mentor retention with online training

2020
Covid-19 moves programme online

A new model introduced supporting local communities to recruit mentors

RCSI join programme

2022
882 Undergraduate Mentors

2023
Programme has reached over **9000** mentees.

Online Training Modules launched

Community Mentor shares her journey to education in nationwide webinar

2024
Three Community Mentors speak at HEA National Access Forum.

2025
Programme reaches almost **11,000** mentees across 6 years with over **1500** mentors

Impact in Numbers

11,000+

Mentees took part

1000+

Undergraduate Mentors Recruited

3000+

Feedback Forms

78%

Mentees said they found the sessions useful

288

Hosts organisations (some took part across multiple years)

75%

Mentees said sessions made them feel more confident attending college

300+

Mentors from the Community recruited

5

Counties in Leinster hosted Mentoring sessions

How does CM operate in practice?

September
Recruitment of Mentors

October
Training should be completed and launch event held

November
First Mentoring Session held during College Awareness Week

January-March
Second Session held, regular check-ins held

March-May
Final session, feedback from year gathered

Community Mentoring Resources

- www.collegeaware.ie Repository for resources and training materials
- Handbooks
- Mentor Training Module
- Host Organisation Training Module

Mentee Feedback

#CommunityMentor

College Awareness Week
Nov 19-24

"No matter what your dream is, you should keep going. If you don't get enough points do something else or come back to it. Believe in yourself and never give up".

"I have spent so much time being scared to research colleges because I keep thinking what if I'm not smart enough or what if I cant do it. But now I know that once I work hard I can achieve anything".

Mainstreaming and sustainability

- St Marks Community School in Tallaght have been involved since 2022

- They recruit mentors from local businesses, the local community and from alumni/ local college students

"Mentoring in St Marks has been a privilege: I've met wonderful students at an amazing time in their lives. It's an extremely rewarding experience and the learning is mutual, for the small pieces of advice I could impart, the conversations with these young adults were inspiring"

Mentor recruited from Business Organisation

Key Learnings

Positive Outcomes for Mentees: The program boosts college prospects by providing guidance, role models, skill development, and confidence building.

Positive Outcomes for Mentors: Mentoring offers volunteers valuable skills, experience, and confidence-building opportunities.

Widening Participation: The adaptable program's inclusive design reaches diverse students and mentors in various settings.

Programme Sustainability: Online resources and local mentor training ensure the program's long-term viability and widespread reach.

Mainstreaming Mentoring: Mentoring is shown to significantly improve access students' confidence, knowledge, and college aspirations.

Shared Resources: Sharing mentor recruitment and training resources maximizes participation and benefits host organizations.

Diverse Delivery Methods: The program uses online and in-person methods, with a preference for in-person sessions.

Community Engagement: Successful programs involve broad stakeholder collaboration (schools, universities, businesses, parents).

Diversity of Mentors: Recruiting and retaining a diverse mentor pool, particularly representing underrepresented groups, is crucial but challenging.

Placement and Scheduling: Effective scheduling, ideally concentrated in one term with advance planning, is essential for logistical success.

Mentor Recruitment and Retention: Utilizing pre-existing relationships and local HEI mentors helps overcome training and time constraints

THANK YOU