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## Webster Bank Sponsors New Program to Keep Mentors and Youth Connected During Pandemic

**WATERBURY, Conn., April 22, 2020** — [Webster Bank](#) announced today a new program with [The Governor's Prevention Partnership](#) that will enable The Partnership's in-school mentoring program to transition to an online forum, allowing mentors to stay connected with mentees. Webster's \$25,000 donation is providing the technology and training costs associated with the training forums, which will enable mentors to launch their online sessions in May.

The virtual mentoring program allows approved and trained mentors to move their sessions from a traditional school setting. Mentors will be trained in creative ways to stay connected with mentees by offering online tours of museums and other cultural attractions, as well as a variety of fun, online educational activities.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a statewide organization that works with schools, mentoring organizations and communities across Connecticut to foster mentor-mentee relationships and anti-bullying efforts. Webster has worked with The Partnership for over 20 years and currently has 100 Webster bankers who mentor students across the state. The virtual mentoring program will be available to any company or mentor currently involved in The Partnership's mentoring program.

With ongoing school closings across the state during the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to continue the program has become even more important. Students at risk of falling off-track but who have a mentor are 55 percent more likely to enroll in college and 130 percent more likely to hold a leadership position later in life, according to MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership ([mentoring.org](http://mentoring.org)).

"Mentoring is a critical tool in our effort to ensure bright futures for our state's young people," said Kelly Juleson-Scopino, Interim Co-Leader of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "We thank Webster for its leadership support to provide a secure and engaging way for mentors to continue their ongoing relationships, which are crucial to helping mentees stay on track during this critical time."

“As soon as school closings began, we reached out to The Partnership to work together to ensure this valuable and successful mentoring program continues,” said Kathy Luria, senior vice president, Philanthropy and Community Affairs at Webster. “Our bankers are excited that they can keep volunteering and help their mentees during these challenging times.”

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**About Webster**

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