

Driven Teen Trendsetter Mentor Tutors Kids, Learns from Them in Return

You may be asking yourself how a senior in high school with so many extracurricular activities can have time to volunteer one hour a week to mentor a struggling reader. Ciara's answer might surprise you.

"A quote I often find myself embracing is 'If it is to be, it is up to me.' These are the daily words of wisdom I apply. Thinking like this is what works best," said Ciara.

"This quote is inspirational to me because it teaches us that if we want to make something happen, we have to initiate it ourselves," she said. "It is up to us to be the change we wish to see and it is up to us to fulfill our own destiny and desires."

Evans High School senior Ciara Cummings became involved in Teen Trendsetters[™] her freshman year. A terrific teacher named Ms. Bohn encouraged her to join. Ms. Bohn created an Evans High School Future Educators of America program for students who were interested in working with children. She partnered her program with Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors, a program she'd heard great things about.

Here are just a few of the many great things that can be said about Teen Trendsetters:

- At-risk mentees with a Teen Trendsetters mentor double their reading performance over the course of a single school year.
- 99 percent of Teen Trendsetters mentors graduate from high school, versus 69 percent of non-mentors.
- 74 percent of Teen Trendsetters mentors earn college scholarships, versus 38 percent of non-mentors.

Ciara is currently serving her fourth year as a Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentor. She cites the mentees as her reason for



What do Drama Club, National Honor Society, Future Educators of America, Best Buddies, and Rho Kappa History Honor Society have in common? Fourth-year Teen Trendsetter[™] Ciara Cummings, that's what!

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continuing year after year. Ciara said working with the elementary students makes her feel special and she is inspired by their passion for reading and their desires to become better readers. Most unexpected to Ciara, however, was that she learned from them as much as they learned from her.

"I didn't expect to learn from them as much as I did. It was such a wonderful surprise," she said.

Ciara made a big investment of time on behalf of her children. The good news is you can support Teen Trendsetters with a small investment that makes a big impact! The average cost for a mentor/mentee match is just \$220 a year. Most important, your small donation will change the life of an at-risk child that desperately needs a mentor.

Having learned a little bit about Ciara and her work ethic, it is no surprise her future is bright. She plans to attend college in the fall of 2013 to pursue a career in education.

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