



**The Leaders in Education, Action and Hope (LEAH) Project** seeks to cultivate educators and community innovators by providing Boston Public Schools' 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with leadership and mentoring opportunities in out-of-school time programs.

### **How does it work?**

- Current mentors and staff choose new LEAH mentors through a rigorous application process.
- Mentors receive 28 hours of preparatory training before beginning work with children.
- Mentors are placed in paid internships in youth-serving organizations where they can both learn and contribute as staff for afterschool programs.
- Mentors work at afterschool sites throughout Boston for approximately 5 hours every week.
- All mentors come together to lead and participate in bi-monthly training and team-building.

### **What are the goals of the LEAH project?**

- Foster leadership and 21st Century Skills development among participants.
- Significantly increase the knowledge of and participation in out-of-school time education among high school participants.
- Increase interest in education and service careers among Boston high school graduates.
- Strengthen the capacity of out of school programs to serve and impact youth.



### **Quote from a LEAH mentor:**

*"I've learned that if you give a child a chance and respect it gives them a positive outlook on things and they respect you for that. I've learned a lot of behavior management skills and new ways to get through to kids without raising my voice."*

- Valentine, 3rd year mentor

### **Quotes from afterschool program directors:**

*"The LEAH Mentors have been one of the best improvements we have made to our program. The students love having the LEAH Mentors here and are constantly asking for them when they're not here. Stachia and Marquette are great role models."*

- Susan Lovett, LEAH site supervisor

*"Our LEAH mentor is, of course, always on time and has such a way of working with our young men. They have such respect for him. When a student is having rough transition, Val recognizes it right away and pulls the student to the side to have a check in. He has always been able to redirect the student. This also frees up other staff to focus their energy on the rest of the group as a whole."*

- Cynthia Upchurch, LEAH site supervisor

New mentors are hired every fall. For more information on LEAH, please contact Jesse at [leahcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:leahcoordinator@gmail.com) or 617-635-1578.

