



# Enrich Your Life as an FGC Mentor

## Take Stock in Children Time Requirement? One hour per week

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Change a life over lunch with the Florida Gateway College Take Stock in Children Program.

The program brought in 30 new students for the 2017-2018 school year, who will receive case management, college success coaching and more. TSIC is a statewide nonprofit mentoring program that pairs caring adult mentors with high deserving high school students.

The Foundation for Florida Gateway College is the lead agency for the local program, which works in partnership with its five-county school districts – Baker, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union. Since 1996, the FGC program has served more than 600 students.

Mentors are the heartbeat of the TSIC program. New mentors are needed to pair with each of the students.

Before matching with a student, mentors are interviewed, trained and screened. Each mentor makes a one-year commitment to meet with a mentee for one hour a week during a time as convenient as a lunch break.

Students in the program sign a contract pledging to remain drug and crime free, meet with their mentor weekly and maintain a minimum grade

point average of 2.5. They receive a two-year tuition scholarship to FGC after high school graduation for fulfilling these obligations.

The foundation purchases the scholarships, which are worth more than \$7,500, from Florida Prepaid. Money raised for scholarship purchases are matched 100 percent by the state.

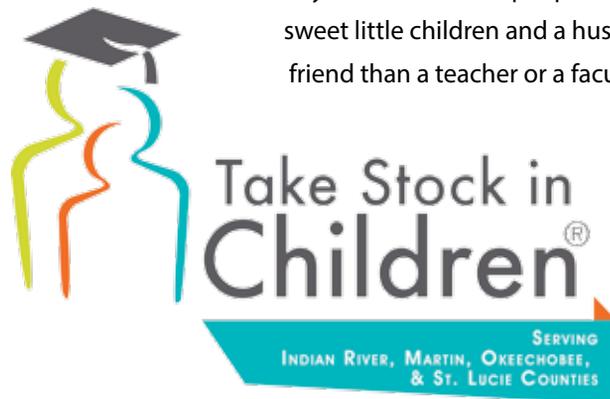
The promise of a scholarship combined with the support of a caring mentor help TSIC students reach their goals.

For more information on becoming a mentor, e-mail [take.stock@fgc.edu](mailto:take.stock@fgc.edu), call 386-754-4423 or visit <https://www.fgc.edu/students/student-resources/take-stock-in-children/>.

### MENTEE REFLECTION

“Rebecca Golden is an amazing person. She goes above and beyond to make the people she cares about happy. She has two sweet little children and a husband. Mrs. Golden is more like a friend than a teacher or a faculty member to me. I meet with her

once a week. Sometimes she brings me snacks or presents, which really makes my day. This tiny little gesture helps me out a whole lot. She has made a great impact on my life, and I really appreciate her



“The more you become aware of and respond to the needs of others, the richer your own life becomes.”

– Mollie Marti



*captions to be placed later*

being there for me. I [can] tell her anything and she [won't] judge me. She tries to help me. Mrs. Golden is a kind and caring person, and I don't know what I'd do without her. She encourages me to continue to take dual enrollment classes and helps me in any way she can with my future. If I have any dilemma, she's always there to give me advice. For example, I was trying to decide whether I

should continue dual enrollment classes or not. She encouraged me to take them. Since I had trouble with one of [my] classes, she suggested I take an elective to give myself something less stressful. She always knows what to do, and she is always there for me no matter what I do. She is a very busy person, but she always makes time for me – time to help me through high school, time to make sure I'm going to be a successful person, and time to mold me into the person I should be. So I guess what I'm trying to say is that Rebecca Golden is not only an amazing mentor but a great friend and an awesome person.”  
Alicia Holton, junior, Columbia High School

**MENTOR**

Rebecca Golden and her mentee, Alicia Holton, have been a team for three years, beginning in ninth grade.

“I love being a mentor,” she said. “I love my student and watching her succeed, enjoy life and go through her high school years.”

Golden previously was a teacher at Columbia County High School. She now is athletics coordinator at Florida Gateway College and began mentoring to remain connected with students outside of the classroom.

“I was excited about the opportunity to be involved with a high school student and be able to give back,” she said.

The duo talk about current events, school, and life in general during their weekly sessions.

“I enjoy it,” she said. “I look forward to all of our meetings.”

As a child, Golden did not have a mentor. Mentors in TSIC provide a valuable service to the students.

“The opportunity to connect with someone other than family and friends, and get the opinion of an adult while going through the high school years is very valuable,” she said.

For Golden, mentoring is not only good for the students but the mentor as well.

“It's an easy way to support the future and make a difference in someone's life,” she said.



**AS A MENTOR -  
WHAT  
DOES THAT  
ENCOMPASS?**



**Mentor as a caring, compassionate adult who chooses to devote your time to a young person, offering them support, guidance, and encouragement. Just one hour a week - - That's IT!**