Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month and Thank Your Mentor Day are both recognized in the month of January as a time to celebrate the contributions of all those who guide our next generations; and

WHEREAS, nationally, approximately 7.5 million students miss nearly a month of school every year; research has proven that students with mentors have better attendance, get better grades, are less likely to get involved with drugs, and are 86% more likely to go to college; and

WHEREAS, mentors play an essential role in helping our youth grow and learn by sharing their experiences, knowledge, and time; the dependable support of a mentor can have a lasting impact on our youth that will endure for a lifetime; a mentor provides confidence and encouragement and helps students to realize their full potential and accomplish their dreams; and

WHEREAS, relationship building is fundamental to any strategy for improving the attendance and performance of students; in honor of Mentoring Month and Thank Your Mentor Day, the United Way of Allegheny County is hosting its third annual mentor appreciation event at the Andy Warhol Museum and will celebrate the over 400 mentors in the Be A Middle School Mentor program; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is extremely thankful for all of our mentors and to the United Way for the multiple opportunities the organization provides for mentorship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim January 2014 as “Mentoring Month” and January 16, 2014 as “Thank Your Mentor Day” in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 30th day of January, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald