**Promising Men**

### Youngstown Community School

#### Initiative Type(s): Mentoring program

#### Community Partner(s): Nonprofit organization with experience serving children

### Description of Initiative:
Youngstown Community School partnered with The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and the Kool Boiz Foundation, a nonprofit providing educational, financial and emotional support for boys and young men of color, to bring a team of mentors in to interact with the middle school boys once a week. Through mentorship and engagement, the program provided students with the opportunity to interact with positive male role models and learn life skills.

### Initiative Benefits:
Youngstown Community School measured student attendance and academic success over the duration of the Promising Men mentorship program and found that both student attendance and academics improved during the course of the program. The program provides additional benefits as well, as some students may not have other positive male role models in their life or feel comfortable discussing social issues with other adults in their life. This program ensures these students have access to adult role models and are more engaged in school and their academics.

### Essential Staff and Partners:
The Kool Boiz Foundation mentors were essential to the capacity of this program. The foundation provided 15-20 professional, successful African-American men who were eager to share their experiences with students.

### Action Steps to Get Started:
Youngstown Community School worked with both The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and the Kool Boiz Foundation to identify mentors, complete background checks and schedule mentoring times with the students.

### For More Information:
Rachael Smith
rsmith@ycs.k12.oh.us

**NOTE:** Student Wellness and Success Funds were not used for this initiative.