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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Kinder Recognizes January as National Mentoring Month**

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today honored Missouri’s countless mentors and role models while recognizing the month of January as National Mentoring Month.

“Today, I am proud to recognize the thousands of volunteers across our state who have dedicated their lives to making a difference in the life of a child,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “Our state has led the way in creating one of the most innovative mentoring programs in America. We will continue to work towards a system that is built not only around protocol and procedure, but more importantly around families and children.”

In 2007, Lt. Governor Peter Kinder helped create and establish the Missouri Mentor Initiative (MMI). Lt. Governor Kinder’s office is responsible for coordinating and managing the initiative. MMI allows up to 300 full-time employees of the state of Missouri to take one hour per week of paid approved work to mentor in Missouri public schools for up to 40 hours annually. The program is a partnership between the State of Missouri and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missouri.

Following Lt. Governor Kinder’s leadership on the Missouri Mentoring Initiative, similar programs have been launched in many other states through the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA).

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For more information on the Missouri Mentor Initiative, or to apply as a state employee, visit: [www.ltgov.mo.gov/mmi.htm](http://www.ltgov.mo.gov/mmi.htm).

For more information on mentoring in your local community, visit: [www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org](http://www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org)

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