CAMEO
Student Mentoring Program

What is CAMEO?
CAMEO is an organization of professional women who volunteer their time in a unique mentoring program. The students are from the Long Beach Unified School District and women enrolled at Long Beach City College. CAMEO is the Professional Auxiliary of the Assistance League® of Long Beach a chapter of National Assistance League®.

Why a mentoring program?
Many of the CAMEO members are educators and professional businesswomen. Members encourage CAMEO students personal growth and development in order that each can pursue her/his highest educational and life’s goals.

How long has this program been offered?
The CAMEO mentor program has been in partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District, and Long Beach City College since 1987. More than 500 students have benefited from the CAMEO Mentoring program.

What is the goal of the program?
The goal of the program is to provide a unique one-on-one mentoring to promising high school and community college students. The program is designed to encourage personal growth and development with financial support and internship opportunities to help with their academic goals and onto professional careers.

What could someone expect from participating as a student in the CAMEO Mentoring Program?
✓ A volunteer mentor is assigned to each participant. Sometimes two volunteers co-mentor. Mentors and students are matched on the basis of career field, if possible, as well as personal rapport.
✓ Volunteers meet with students about once a month. They get together to discuss school status and issues, career opportunities, networking needs, job searches, financial problems – in short, any school-related or career-related issues that a caring mentor or advisor can help with. Mentors serve as an advisor by providing resources and promoting a student’s own determinations to succeed in furthering his/her education and career goals.
✓ About once a month there are group meetings, educational and/or cultural enrichment programs. Or, sometimes, activities are planned just for fun and bonding of high school and community college students.
✓ CAMEO also subsidizes a paid summer employment internship program with area agencies and private employers for which program participants may apply. Sometimes these job experiences lead to new careers.

What other opportunities are available to the student?
Scholarships are available for students who conclude the program and are in good standing with CAMEO and are planning to continue their education at a two year or four year college or university. Students who actively participate in the program and maintain good grades can apply for the scholarship.

What are the benefits of the program?
Depending on the individual situation, benefits include encouragement, getting to know other motivated students, networking to meet people in specific careers, financial assistance with school expenses, interview clothes, work experience, and learning creative approaches to educational and possible career objectives.

What are the responsibilities of the program participants?
Students must be ready to communicate pro actively with their volunteer mentor on a regular basis and attend most or all scheduled events. Students must make a three-year commitment for their 10th, 11th and 12th grade years or a two-year commitment for LBCC students.

What is required to apply?
Students must have, and maintain, a GPA of 2.7 or higher. They must have been identified as having high potential and whose personal and academic development would benefit from interaction with caring adults. Must be a citizen or legal resident of the US. Must be able and willing to make a 3 year commitment for high students and 2 year commitment for LBCC students.

How does a student apply?
Application forms are available through 9th grade high school counselors or through the LBCC Foundation Office. A CAMEO committee then selects students for personal interviews. Following interviews, selected students and a parent will be invited to a meeting to learn more about the program, meet CAMEO volunteer mentors and decide if they wish to participate. The number of students selected depends upon the availability of CAMEO mentors.
CAMEO
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Counselor Recommendation Form

Candidate Information

Student Name _________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________ City __________________ Zip Code

Student home/cell phone _______________________ Student email ____________________________

Current School _____________________________ Name of Counselor __________________________

Criteria for High School Student Selection

In evaluating a candidate for participation in the CAMEO Student Mentoring Program, please use the following criteria:

1. The Student has high potential, but limited opportunities for information and may be economically less advantaged.
2. The student is motivated to succeed toward higher education, but may lack support and opportunity.
3. The student is a citizen or legal resident of the United States.
4. The student has a Social Security Card or California Legal Resident Card.
5. The student has a 2.7 or above GPA or above average grade level test scores.
6. The student's personal and academic development will benefit from networking with professionals in the business community.
7. The student is expected to remain in the LBUSD through graduation.
8. The student is able to make a 3 year commitment to the CAMEO Student Mentoring Program and will participate in its activities.
9. The student resides within the boundaries of the LBUSD.

Counselor

Please attach a copy of the student's current transcripts and attendance records to the student's application. Please state “Reasons for Recommendation” below, you may continue on the back.

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Counselor Signature __________________________ Date __________________________

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