



MEET OUR MENTORS



DAVE TORRES

Career: Saratoga Springs
City School District-
Attendance Officer

Award winning varsity
high school hockey coach

When he was asked in 2014
to consider becoming a
mentor, Dave felt like he
would be a good fit. “Young

people need a caring adult in their lives - someone to encourage them to try different things, to help guide and advocate for them.” Torres values his time as a mentor and has had three mentees since he joined the program eight years ago. He remembers when his first mentee walked across the stage to receive his diploma. “It was such a rewarding feeling to play a part in his success. But - he was the one to make it happen. He was the one to take the steps needed to go away to college. I was there to help guide him.” Torres is an enthusiastic cheerleader for anyone considering applying to become a mentor.

“For me, the opportunity to engage in one-to-one conversations and allow my mentees to see a side of myself outside of the school building has created trusting and mutually respectful relationships. From assisting my mentees with the college application process to going out for dinner, and playing rounds of golf, I am grateful for the chance to positively impact the lives of the kids I mentor. This program is rewarding on so many levels - for both the mentor and the mentee. My role as a mentor with the Saratoga Springs Sponsor A Scholar Program has absolutely enriched my life!”



MICHELE FUNICIELLO

Career: Executive
Cardiovascular Hospital
Specialist-AstraZeneca

Owner/Operator, Circular
Manor Bed and Breakfast

“I loved being a mentor! It is such an incredible journey to help facilitate a young

person’s growth - someone who has their whole life ahead of them. This program opens doors to opportunities, new experiences, and financial assistance that can make a huge difference in a child’s future.”

Michele’s passion and commitment to the program’s mission and values led her to expand her participation and take on the responsibilities of Mentorship Coordinator. “My strengths are connecting people. I am excited to help create strong, supportive matches between mentor and mentee. The commitment is for four years, but the relationship could last a lifetime!”

Michele encourages anyone interested in mentoring to speak with someone who has been a mentor. Their stories are inspiring. She believes in the invaluable “gifts” that volunteering bestows upon the giver. “In giving, you receive. I have received so much from my relationship with Lupe, my mentee. This strong, vibrant young woman will be a part of my life forever.”

Her decision to wholeheartedly support Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar is based on what she has seen and experienced during her involvement. “This program builds self-confidence and encourages students to be curious, recognize possibilities, and empower them to expand their world. They grow emotionally, learn to trust, give back to their community, experience compassion, and practice good citizenship. I am honored to be a part of Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar.”

Interested in being a mentor?

Contact Michele at michelefuniciello@yahoo.com
or Cindy at cindyhollowood@gmail.com