

Big Brothers Big Sisters, A Community of Caring

- **Founded in 1958**
- **Covers 5 counties**
 - Allegan
 - Barry
 - Calhoun
 - Kalamazoo
 - Van Buren
- **Served 1,240 children in 2015**



Three Program Models

- **Community-Based Mentoring**
- **Bigs in Business / Bigs on Campus / Bigs in Schools**
- **High School Bigs**



Program Outcomes

- **94% have better relationships with their peers**
- **85% are thinking more about post-secondary goals**
- **93% get better grades**
- **90% are less likely to engage in negative behaviors**



Purpose of Bigs on Campus

Provide middle or high school students:

- an opportunity to be mentored by a college or university faculty or staff member
- an introduction to college life
- the skills needed to enroll and succeed in post-secondary education



Current Bigs on Campus Programs

- **Kalamazoo Valley Community College**
- **Kellogg Community College**



Big on Campus at Western Michigan University

- **Faculty or staff will be matched in a one-to-one friendship with a Kalamazoo Public Schools high school student.**



Why Western Michigan University?

- **Kalamazoo Public School students can use The Kalamazoo Promise to attend WMU**
- **We all want students to be positioned for success through inspiration and guidance**
- **Faculty/staff are the ones who can help KPS students develop the skills needed to succeed**



Why Western Michigan University?

- **Many KPS students do not have family members who have the life experience to help prepare them for college**
- **By spending consistent 1-to-1 time with a student, WMU faculty and staff can provide them with the experiences and confidence needed to achieve a college education**



Benefits for WMU

- **Improved employee engagement**
- **Opportunity for team building**
- **Opportunity to learn new skills**



How Does it Work?

- **Students visit their mentor on-site at WMU twice a month, same day and time, for one hour**
- **The program runs October through May**
- **At least 2 years**



How Does it Work?

Together you can:

- Go on a scavenger hunt around campus
- Visit the Student Recreation Center, a cafeteria, the library, etc.
- Talk about the student's interests, connect interests with possible careers
- Play games

BBBS staff will:

- Be on site every meeting day
- Provide ideas of how to spend time together
- Offer other support if needed



Let's Connect & Get Started

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ThinkBigToday.org



Big Brothers Big Sisters
A Community of Caring

A COMMUNITY OF CARING