



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women's Business Institute (WBI) Committee Launches Mentoring Program to Empower Future Leaders

UCFS-CALC Celebrates National Mentoring Month with New Initiative and Upcoming Empowerment Event

Troy, MI — (Jan 12, 2026) In celebration of National Mentoring Month (NMM) 2026, the Women's Business Institute (WBI) Committee, a division of United Community Family Services—Chaldean American Ladies of Charity (UCFS-CALC), proudly announces the launch of its inaugural Mentoring Program. This pilot initiative pairs six accomplished women professionals with six high school and college students pursuing careers in medicine, law, dentistry, interior design, nursing, and communications.

As part of UCFS-CALC's long-term vision for leadership development, the organization is also expanding the program to welcome additional clients interested in pursuing a wide range of professional careers. This growth reflects UCFS-CALC's commitment to creating pathways of opportunity for young women across the community.

“This mentoring program is a powerful investment in the future of our community,” said Melanie Duquesnel, President and CEO of UCFS-CALC. “By connecting experienced professionals with young women at pivotal stages in their education, we’re not only sharing knowledge—we’re building confidence, networks, and lifelong support systems.”

Duquesnel added, “Mentorship is one of the most meaningful ways we can live out our mission of dignity and hope. It’s about showing up, listening, and helping someone see what’s possible.”

The Mentoring Program is designed to foster meaningful relationships between emerging talent and seasoned professionals, offering guidance, inspiration, and

real-world insight into career pathways. Mentors include leaders across diverse industries who are committed to nurturing the next generation of changemakers.

- January 17: International Mentoring Day – Honoring global mentoring relationships
- January 19: MLK Jr. Day of Service – Encouraging mentorship as a form of service
- January 28: Thank Your Mentor Day – Acknowledging those who've made a difference

Upcoming Event: Empower. Connect. Inspire.



To further spotlight mentorship and leadership, UCFS-CALC and the Arab American Women's Business Council (AAWBC) will co-host the Empowering Women event on February 5, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn, Detroit–Southfield. The evening will feature a dynamic panel of local leaders and entrepreneurs sharing personal journeys, lessons, and strategies for success.

Tickets are \$25 and include light refreshments. Registration is available at: <https://events.humanitix.com/ucfs-aawbc-event>.

About UCFS–CALC

United Community Family Services–Chaldean American Ladies of Charity is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving families through education, empowerment, and compassionate support. The Women's Business Institute Committee is one of its newest initiatives, focused on leadership development and mentorship for women and girls.