



## **PEN or PENCIL MENTORING INITIATIVE**

---

Program	PEN or PENCIL National Mentoring Initiative
Initiative	<b>EDUCATION</b>
Website	<a href="http://www.penorpencil.org">www.penorpencil.org</a>

### Description of Program

PEN or PENCIL Mentoring Initiative has an established history, having been implemented by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice and in faith and school settings since 2005. Its goal is to create transformational change that moves young people away from the pen (penitentiary) towards the pencil (education). The focus of this initiative is to provide social institutions - such as schools and the church - with behavioral strategies that introduce and endear adolescents to conventional norms and values. Then, as socializing agents, these institutions engage adolescents in a way that reinforces them to internalize conventional norms . . . Among other strategies, this initiative has a supportive component that teaches students history, a love and appreciation for it.

### Benefits of Program

Endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies and used in conjunction with six federal agencies, this initiative is faith-led. It was designed expressly in a manner that enrolls the faith community. Unfortunately, too often, poor academic performance may inhibit the attachment to conventional norms and thus break the crucial bond with society - separating individuals from the internal controls that discourage delinquent behavior. Local church professionals are afforded the opportunity to partner with schools and similarly appointed entities to impart values, character, and norms that are compatible with what we preach! By affiliation with 62 options, local churches gain access to long-standing relationships with Departments of Justice, Parks and Recreation, to name a few. By affiliation, even small ministries become eligible to access federal or multi-state resource dollars. A highlight of this beneficial program is that subject matter experts encompass Church of God in Christ education professionals!

### Implementation Steps

1. Select a local contact person, preferably educator, who would be available to meet monthly via zoom
  2. Local educator will liaise with the CUI Education subject matter expert on PEN or PENCIL
  3. Post assessment/internal observation, local educator will identify and communicate church preference(s) for level of program involvement
  4. Local educator will collaborate with ministry leader to confirm and select an activity option or curriculum
  5. Select a local PEN or PENCIL team who would be available to meet monthly, gaining updates and national program directives, via zoom with cohorts
  6. Implement program initiative specific to the needs of local ministry
- 

*For more information contact:*

Dr. Valda Slack, Vice President for Education  
vslack@cogic.org