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Pignatelli Honored at **Youth Mentoring** Day

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BOSTON " State Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli, D-Lenox, was recognized on Thursday by the

Massachusetts Mentoring Partnership and the Massachusetts Service Alliance for his advocacy and his continued support for **youth-mentoring** programs. Also honored at the 4th annual Youth Mentoring Day event at the State House were state Sens. Stan Rosenberg, D-Amherst, and Jack Hart, D-Boston, and state Rep. Patricia Haddad, D-Somerset.

"It was a truly wonderful event today and I am so honored to be mentioned among these other great advocates for **youth mentoring** programs," said Pignatelli in a statement. "Today is really about all the mentors that have touched so many young lives and have provided the positive influence when needed. We are all aware of the budget constraints we are facing right now, but the small amount of public money these programs receive really goes a long way.

"I have been a strong advocate for this funding the past and I look forward to continuing the fight to provide the essential funds these programs deserve. Railroad Street Youth Project, which is supported by **Mass Mentoring**, is a great example of the wonderful work these organizations do. I think we are all aware of the success RSYP has had working with Berkshire County youth and hopefully events like this will heighten the public's awareness of these essential programs."

The annual event is aimed at heightening public awareness about the impact of **youth mentoring**, the need for mentors and the continuing fight for much needed public support. The **Mass Mentoring** Partnership is the only statewide organization solely dedicated to strategically expanding quality **youth mentoring**. The MMP counts more than 165 mentoring programs under its umbrella and provides them with all the training, assistance and support needed. This work results in hundreds of constructive and supportive mentoring relationships every year.

Highlights: Youth-Mentoring, Youth Mentoring, youth-mentoring, Youth Mentoring, youth mentoring, Mass Mentoring, Mass Mentoring Partnership