The Compton Mentor Fellowship Program identifies motivated young problem solvers on the forefront of important issues and offers them the ability to test their ideas and ideals against real world scenarios. Mentoring a Compton Fellow has been a wonderful and fulfilling experience for me. It has been a sincere pleasure to witness the results produced by a Fellow of this program. -- Theresa Snow, Director of Agricultural Resources, Vermont Foodbank, 2010 Mentor

Mentor Description

The central role of a Compton Mentor is to provide guidance and support to a Compton Fellow. The Mentor shares common interests and goals with the Fellow, and serves as a source of encouragement and impetus for continued learning and service, helping transform academic studies into real world applications.

The role of the Mentor varies with individuals and projects -- from providing professional advice to personal friendship -- however, it always includes a commitment to help the Fellow achieve a sense of satisfaction and growth through the project he/she has designed. This partnership is crucial to the success of the Fellowship.

It is important to recognize that although a Mentor and Fellow will work collaboratively, from a distance or in close proximity, the Fellow is not an intern or an employee. Instead, the partnership is based on learning and applied knowledge in ways that the Fellow would not otherwise be able to do without a Mentor. Within the broad range of possibilities for a Mentor/Fellow partnership, the Compton Foundation expects each Mentor to:

• Establish guidelines with the Fellow for a clear working relationship
• Maintain regular communication with the Fellow
• Provide rigorous review and insight on the Fellow’s project
• Be a source of connections and professional opportunities
• Critique and respond to the Fellow’s Compton reports

The rewards of the Mentor’s contribution may not be measurable. However, they are vital to the development of a promising young person committed to making a positive difference in the world.