

Abstract-

This presentation outlines the BIONIC (Believe It Or Not I Care) Program at Mattoon High School. For the past 10 years, Dr. Larson and a team of counseling interns have partnered with Mattoon High School to implement BIONIC (Believe It Or Not I Care), a school-wide peer mentoring program.

Description-

This presentation will discuss the data-based BIONIC program. This workshop will present the B.I.O.N.I.C. program and its impact on student leaders. We will discuss the influence of each team and specifically the impact of the program's tutor team on school culture, how it fosters leadership development in students, and how students who are struggling academically can find proper support to remain on the path of academic excellence.

This past year, 85 of Mattoon High School's (MHS) top junior and senior students were chosen to serve as mentors in the BIONIC program. All mentors partook in a one-day summer training program at Eastern Illinois University. There they further developed their leadership and teamwork skills by attending multiple leadership modules led by a variety of guest speakers and participating in different team-building activities.

BIONIC demonstrates the importance of fostering student leaders, provides support for students, and establishes a sense of community at the school. This is evidenced on how BIONIC has positively impacted MHS, and how the school supports students who need additional academic help. Students can sign up for extra tutoring help on their own or based off teacher or counselor recommendations. Tutoring mentors select the subjects they feel most comfortable providing peer tutoring in.

Presenter Biographies

Rebekah Magee is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Rebekah works with the Grief Team for BIONIC.

Molly Kollross is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Molly works with the Freshman Team for BIONIC.

Menna Hendrickson is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Menna works with the Freshman Team for BIONIC.

Ethan Homeyer is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Ethan works with the Tutor Team for BIONIC.

Danielle is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Danielle works with the Transfer Team for BIONIC.

Dr. Heidi Larson is a professor in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education at EIU. Dr. Larson was integral in bringing BIONIC to MHS and facilitates the placement of graduate students in the program.