

MENTORSTARK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MentorStark welcomes new president to Board of Directors

Canton, Ohio - MentorStark is proud to welcome Julie Abiecunas as the new president to lead its board of directors. A longtime member of the board and dedicated community leader, Abiecunas will partner with newly appointed Executive Director Cassie Ausperk to help guide the organization into its next chapter of growth and impact.

“I am excited to work with Julie and continue building on the incredible work already happening in our community,” said Ausperk. “We both see tremendous opportunities for collaboration and for deepening MentorStark’s reach throughout Stark County.”

Julie Abiecunas currently serves as chief executive officer at JRC. Prior to joining JRC in 2021, she held senior leadership positions with nonprofit organizations and agencies serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Family and Child Development from the University of Akron in 2006, along with a minor certificate in Human Resources.

Abiecunas has an extensive history of community involvement and leadership. She previously served on the boards of Ronald McDonald House and VANTAGE Aging, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Stark County Family Council, the Aultman Women’s Board, and the She Elevates Board. She is also a graduate of the 2021 Leadership Stark County Spotlight Program, a recipient of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce’s 2022 Twenty Under 40 Award, and a graduate of the 2022–2023 Leadership Stark County Signature Program.

Julie and her husband, Eric, are proud parents to their five-year-old daughter, Navy.

About MentorStark

MentorStark’s mission is to drive the mentoring and youth movement in Stark County and deliver innovative gap-filling programming that helps young people build the skills, confidence, character and connections that lead to opportunity. The organization’s initiatives include MentorStark.org, a website that serves as a community hub to find local mentoring and youth programs and activities. MentorStark also serves local school districts, organizations and young people ages 15-27 by providing career exploration and social capital-building activities through the MentorStark Opportunity Club.