Good Things Happening

UC professor gives back by mentoring

University of Cincinnati Medical School Professor Wan Lim has always felt a strong pull to give back to her community. So when she came to the school four years ago, it was no surprise for her to volunteer as a mentor for students in Cincinnati Public Schools.

But now, Lim has gotten 85 UC medical students to volunteer their time with the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative’s Mentoring Program.

"I wanted to give back, and I wanted my students to be involved and learn from their mentees as well," Lim said.

Audrey Kesselring, 23, a first-year student originally from Mason, and her student, a fifth-grader at Fairview Elementary, share a common love of music and interest in health care.

"For being so young, she's very mature and taught me a lot about growing up quickly and having responsibility at a young age," Kesselring said of her student, Chanelle Lanier. "She keeps me in touch with what's important in life and my priorities. She helps keep me grounded."

Debbie Rohner, a 23-year-old Sycamore High School graduate, found that juggling the demands of medical school and mentoring Hyde Park Elementary fourth-grader Raven Stone has its own rewards.

"I get a little less sleep; it's worth it though," she said.

While the program has been successful with the students, Lim has often had to find creative ways to fund group outings for the cash-strapped medical students. The program has received a $1,000 grant from the Charles H. Dater Foundation but is looking for other supporters.

For more information, contact Lim at wan.lim@uc.edu

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