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TAKE THE LEAD IN YOUR MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

by Donalisa Stinyard

We've been told countless times, how important it is to have a mentor. What seems to get lost in the shuffle is everything that is involved in the mentoring relationship. Working with a mentor is more than just having someone throw your name around or connect you with important people. Mentoring is a relationship, and just as with any other relationship in your life, you must take the time and steps to cultivate that relationship.

The burden of responsibility in the mentoring relationship falls the protege. This month, we are talking about how you take the lead in your mentoring relationship. Let's start with seven practical steps to help you take the lead in cultivating a meaningful mentoring partnership between you and your mentor.

PROTEGE SPOTLIGHT

by Nikki Schuler

Meet Mike, CEO of MJW Lean Consulting, LLC and an Institute of Veteran and Military Family's (IVMF) Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) graduate. Upon graduation, IVMF gave Mike resources to help him succeed with his entrepreneurial goals, and eMentor was one of them. After enrolling and building his profile, he chose to contact Brandon, a mentor, he hoped could assist him in the growth of his business. "I really needed to understand LinkedIn and he took me, from heading down a dead-end road in the wrong direction, to establishing online credibility." After their 6-month connection, the two remain in close contact and Mike still meets with Brandon monthly. When asked what noticeable changes there have been since the

culmination of their mentoring partnership, Mike quickly volunteers "increased confidence, not to mention so much gratitude that someone who was a complete stranger 6 months ago, would be so willing to help. As a result of establishing a professional and reputable LinkedIn account, Mike has seen an increase in activity and has a

new respect for the power of social media. Why take time to utilize eMentor? Mike says "with all the unknowns and variables, why would anyone try to do it alone? How much better is the experience and results from allowing someone to come alongside and lend a hand!" We couldn't agree with you more Mike.

1. Be ready to work! Great relationships take time and effort. Take the time to get to know your mentor and let him/her get to know you. You also need to be ready to actually do some work. Your mentor is going to push you outside of your comfort zone. Be ready to accept the challenge and move forward with your goals.

2. Be Proactive! Take the initiative and ask your mentor questions. Share your goals. Do not rely on your mentor to do everything and let your mentor know what you need.

3. Be You! When you are honest and real, your mentor will be better able to help you personally and professionally. Share your hopes, dreams, and vision for your future.

4. Communication! Be clear and communicate your desired outcomes for the mentoring relationship upfront. If you feel there is a misunderstanding, take some time to organize your thoughts and then communicate those concerns to your mentor.



"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself."

- Oprah Winfrey

FEATURED MENTOR

Christine Schumaker

When stumbling across Kallie & Co on social media, you see a cool, bohemian-style online boutique that will make you want to hit the beach with all your closest friends. What you may not know is that the owner, Nadia Martinez, is a Military Spouse who started off gaining entrepreneur guidance from eMentor Program. Nadia has grown a super successful brand dedicated to manufacturing Vegan fair trade and ethically-made products. Nadia's store not only has adorable clothes and accessories but also gives back to charity. She recently became a member of the Facebook's Small Business Council and will be joining us on eMentor Program's Facebook page for a live Q&A on April 18th at 9 A.M. PST to share her wealth of knowledge and entrepreneur experiences.



Kallie & Co

5. Expect support-not miracles! Your mentor is there to support your goals not solve your problems. Your mentor is there to provide you a different perspective, new ideas and can be a good sounding board regarding your situation.

6. Show up! Ensure you keep up your end of the bargain and follow through with any items you and your mentor have agreed upon. Be prepared for your meetings. Take time and create an agenda for your time together. Share the agenda with your mentor prior to your meeting.

7. Enjoy! Focus on the relationship rather than the outcomes. Take the time to get to know your mentor. Focus on cultivating a relationship with your mentor rather than focusing on what your mentor can do for you.

MEET THE STAFF

Stephanie Walton

Meet Nicole Schuler our newest member of the eMentor team. Nikki enlisted in the US Navy following high school; received an appointment to the US Naval Academy; earned her commission as an officer in the USMC; became an entrepreneur and the Vice President of an aerial services drone company following her military service, and now serves as the Program Manager for eMentor. Welcome Nikki!



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Veteran & Military Spouse

DAVID BERRY

MilitaryWomen

BEVIN KEEN

MilitaryEntrepreneur

GWENDOLEN WILDER

Corporate Partner

MERCK

Paying Partner

TRAVELER'S

Nonprofit Partner

AMERICAN LEGION

Government Partner

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PROGRAM UPDATES

Try the new *Meetings/Flash Mentoring* by scheduling a one-time meeting with a mentor to check in.

Coming Soon!

Calendar Syncing! With user approval, you will be able to sync your availability with our software and use the Meetings tool more effectively. Proteges will see availability slots to schedule meetings with a mentor.