Welcome to the inaugural UW-Whitewater Alumni Mentor Program e-newsletter!

Since this program was established campus wide in 2011 we have blissfully assumed things were going great as our numbers kept growing. “Look at us!” we’d say, “We must be successful since we have so many participants!” After a survey response of 43% of 2014-15 mentor participants suggested otherwise we decided to make some changes. Thank you, 43%, for choosing to help us make this a stronger program!

We listened and thoughtfully prepared a modified program to help address key issues. The majority of respondents strongly believed in the program’s intent, but identified three areas for us to improve upon: lack of communication related to annual continuation in the program, lack of communication related to expectations and discussion topics, and the granddaddy of them all: lack of student contact.

Behold! The new and improved UW-Whitewater Alumni Mentor Program!

Since you are receiving this, that means you agreed over the summer to continue for the 2015-2016 school year. That’s excellent! We are excited to have you aboard. Not to fret, next summer you will get another request and the opportunity to reevaluate your commitments and accept or decline to participate in the 2016-2017 year. No more of the once you sign up you are signed up for life mentality of our past. We are new and improved! Check.

Follow this link to your UW-Whitewater Alumni Mentor Program Handbook.

A handy-dandy guide to help you navigate the murky waters of mentorship relationships. What do I talk about? What does my student want from me? Do you know who my mentor is? Super successful that’s who – I don’t want to bother them – do they really want to hear from little ol’ me? This handbook will answer all those questions and many more. Please find the agreement to be completed between you and your match and other forms to help you as you progress in your relationship. Please feel free to provide feedback to help us improve in our work together.
Additionally, these super helpful and informative e-newsletters will be showing up in an unpredictable manner to help provide topics to discuss and act as a nudge to contact your match. Check.

Students, students, students... It would appear that previously many students signed up for this program and didn’t do anything but put it on their resume. This, rightfully so, resulted in frustrated alumni mentors. Not today’s students. No siree. Current students will complete a required orientation training session. They are committed. They are engaged. They are Warhawks! Check.

We appreciate, encourage, and look forward to feedback on any and all aspects of this program throughout the year.

**Action Step**

Your first assignment is to look over the handbook and begin to make notes of questions you may have for your alumni mentor or questions you might want to ask your student protégé.

**Students!** Sign up for one of the required training sessions at [my.uww.edu](http://my.uww.edu) under Career and Leadership Development. Familiarize yourself with the handbook which will be discussed during orientation.

**Discuss**

We will share topics for matches to discuss. Since most of you don’t have a match yet click the links for two articles to inspire you!

- [3 Tips for a great mentor relationship](#)
- [What is a mentor?](#)

**Share your story!**

If you have had or are currently in a successful mentoring relationship and would like to share your story, including any steps you took that others may find helpful, contact: Katie Kuznacic at [kuznacik@uww.edu](mailto:kuznacik@uww.edu) or Michelle Carey at [careym@uww.edu](mailto:careym@uww.edu)
Noteworthy Dates:

Classes Begin Wednesday, September 2

Student Protégé Training Option 1: September 17 4-5pm, Hyland Hall 1302 - Sign up now open at: my.uww.edu under Career and Leadership Development.

Student Protégé Training Option 2: September 18 1-2pm, Hyland Hall 1302 - Sign up now open at: my.uww.edu under Career and Leadership Development.

Match notifications made by October 12

Homecoming: October 31 (Link to Homecoming activities)

Alumni Mentor Reception: November 11, 5pm, The Hamilton Room of the University Center on campus

UW-Whitewater
Alumni Mentor Program
800 W Main St, Ste 300
Whitewater, WI 53190

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