

Mentoring eNews

Make your Mentoring Partnership “Work” through the Summer

Below is a short article which gives suggestions on maintaining your mentoring partnership during the busy days of summer!

Communicate Summer Expectations

Summertime is often busy for everyone whether it be with work or vacation plans. Discuss your plans for the summer with one another. Will you be on extended leave for some reason? Anticipate working on a hefty project in the next few months which will require a lot of your “free time”? Before the summer gets too busy for you, take time now to assess how often you will communicate with each other by setting minimum expectations.

Also consider where the student will be this summer; is s/he going home for break? For some, that could mean you will have more face time; for others, this may mean less one-on-one contact. Figure out the best ways to connect with each other, whether it be via phone, email, or snail mail— who said you can't be pen pals!

Lastly, it may also be helpful to evaluate your communication level with one another midway through the summer to ensure that both of you are satisfied. Please remember to reach out to me should you encounter any problems contacting your mentor or mentee.

Plan a Summer Get-Together

For some mentoring pairs, those who were just connected and those who are remote mentors, the summertime provides a lot of opportunities to get together for either the first or second time and do something fun together! Consider attending an art museum, nature areas, sporting events, or other community-enrichment places. Or perhaps you can participate on a group intramural game. The sky's the limit!

For local mentoring pairs whose student is returning back home, plan a time to get together before fall classes resume and discuss frequency of contact.
