

Mentorship in higher education is an experience and bond that will always serve as a meaningful and crucial aspect in my success in student affairs. As I look forward to roles that would serve to encourage additional opportunities to engage in a mentorship capacity with students, I think about the tenets that will guide my personal philosophy on mentorship. Recognizing and respecting the dynamics of identity that exist and interact in every mentoring relationship is vital to the ability to achieve a mutually beneficial, synergistic mentorship. Creating space for dialogue about the inner workings of how my identities (white, man, cisgender, gay, currently able-bodied, etc.) are influencing and interacting with a student's respective identities is important to address the specific dynamics of power and privilege. Deconstructing and then mutually constructing expectations of the mentoring relationship provides both myself, the mentor, and mentee the chance to engage in mentorship that is grounded in equity, collaboration, and respect.

An additional core element in my mentorship philosophy is the determination to promote a mentoring relationship that is individualized and based in the unique needs and desires of the mentee. While there are potentially foundational elements that can be found in a variety of mentoring relationships, it is my desire to establish a mentorship with a mentee that is adaptable and exclusive. Similar to the previous principle of my mentorship philosophy, providing the mentee the chance to express their perspective(s) on the relationship will be an essential component to developing a student-centered mentoring relationship.

Finally, an overarching element of my mentorship philosophy is the holistic appreciation and support of the mentee. This final element also is the defining component of my mentorship philosophy as holistic care incorporates all of my guiding principles in mentorship. To me, this means that no topic or conversation is unnecessary if there is mutual consent in the dialogue. Whether it is professionally, academically, or personally based, it is my desire to support the

mentee because of the interwoven nature of one's life experiences. Working with the mentee to create appropriate boundaries is an equally important piece to this element. To not acknowledge every aspect of mentee's life is to potentially neglect the holistic well-being that every human is entitled to. In all, I hope to develop, expand, and utilize these essential components of mentorship as I, individually develop as a student affairs professional.