

STRATEGIES FOR MENTORING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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CREATING THE NEXT®

- Introduction
- Define the term “mentor”
- Mentoring skills inventory
- What makes a mentoring relationship successful?
- What are mentoring programs trying to accomplish?
- Where do international students fit in?
- Myths about international students
- Common issues facing international students
- What a mentor can do to help an international mentee
- The rewards!!

- My story
 - Current Position
 - Undergraduate education
 - How I joined the field of international education
 - Graduate education
 - Experience abroad and return to the U.S.
 - Current involvement in state and regional international education efforts

DEFINE THE TERM “MENTOR”



- Mentor
 - Trusted counselor or guide*
 - Tutor or coach*
- The term “mentor” has a different meaning to each person
- It’s important to think about who you are and what you can bring to a mentoring relationship. Questions to ask yourself....
- Think about mentors you have had in the past, what qualities did they have?

- *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

- Your list will likely look something like this:
 - Nice
 - Responsive/Communicative
 - Supportive
 - Helpful
 - Engaged
 - Caring
 - Welcoming
 - Friendly
 - Understanding
 - Challenging
 - Encouraging
 - Wise

WHAT MAKES A MENTORING RELATIONSHIP SUCCESSFUL?



- Collaborative approach to relationship
 - Being open to new goals and ideas for the relationship
 - Active listening
 - Consistency and dependability
 - Knowing that at times relationships can feel one-sided
 - Two-party responsibility on how to spend time together
 - Focusing on the person, not on the formal relationship
 - Utilize program coordinator and institute resources
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- “Effective Strategies for Providing Quality Youth Mentoring in Schools and Communities” –Hamilton Fish Institute

WHAT ARE MENTORING PROGRAMS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?



- Common items in mentee applications
 - Method and how often to communicate
 - Goals of the relationship
 - Strategies for achieving the goals
- Common goals of mentoring programs
 - Building community
 - Sharing experiences
 - Life-long learning
 - Networking
 - Fun!

WHERE DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FIT IN?



- International enrollment at American colleges and universities has grown exponentially
- U.S. has had a long tradition in reputable education, and our educational systems have grown in size and available opportunities
- The U.S. economy and job market attracts highly skilled (or soon to be highly skilled) people from all over the world
- Changes in the global education market have, some cases, made getting into U.S. universities comparatively easier than accessing those in student's own countries
- The majority of these students grow up with their own myths and beliefs about what university life will be like
 - Many are interested in the same things you are-building communities and support networks, sharing experiences, opportunities for life-long learning, networking, and fun. And of course, finding employment somewhere, and helping their own family prosper.

MYTHS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



- All are very wealthy
- They can't speak English
- They don't have good hygiene
- There are only here to take American jobs,
 - Or are only interested in mentor/mentee for the purpose of employment
- Won't communicate properly
- Every student will be from China or India
- Needy
- Rude

These are all stereotypes or myths. These people are individuals with their own thoughts, feelings, and dreams. Cultural differences play a role in how we think.

COMMON ISSUES FACING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



1. Cross-Cultural Adjustment
 2. Adjusting to the American Education System and Achieving Academic Success
 3. Enhancing English-Language Proficiency
 4. Establishing Interpersonal Relationships and Social Support Networks
 5. Maintaining Physical and Psychological Well-being
 6. Managing Finances
 7. Knowing Immigration Regulations
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- Jinghua Deng Meyer-Hawaii International Conference on Education

WHAT CAN MENTORS DO TO HELP INTERNATIONAL MENTEES?



1. Introduce them to American and Southern culture
2. Explain and help troubleshoot the stereotypical American university experience
3. Small talk! Introduce as many idioms as you can, and use them as often as you can
4. Introduce them to your personal and professional network, and find ways to learn about theirs
5. Explain how you navigate your own work-life balance, and what you would do if you could make it better
6. Share your attempts at being frugal. Where can students get the best value for their dollar?
7. Encourage them to review resources on the OIE website and visit our office with specific questions

THE REWARDS!!



- Potential for a lifelong friend
- Mentee will be able to challenge and grow your own perspectives
- You now have a friend to see when visiting another country!
- An expert guide on trying new foods and determining what is closest to authentic cuisine
- A friend to explore new cultures and traditions with
- Practice a new language
- Take advantage of the mentee's own unique skills and talents

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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- Don't forget to complete your evaluations!!