The Benefits of a Mentorship Relationship

by Charissa Jefferson
Mentor Chair, SLA-SCC
charissajefferson@gmail.com

I firmly believe that having the right “mentor can elevate your professional capabilities exponentially” (Scivicque, 2011). For myself, I have had several mentors. All who have been invaluable resources and have brought wealth to my professional portfolio. Different mentors fulfill many facets of your career goals. However, very few people take advantage of having a mentor at all.

Mentors are amazing people who want to share their experience, knowledge, guidance and perhaps advice or assistance. If you take the time to cultivate the relationship, you will earn a lifelong friend and potential future business partner. Mentorship is an enriching win-win relationship for both the mentor and mentee because it is about making a genuine connection with another person where each person learns something. As best expressed by Doris Helfer, SLA-SCC’s CSUN Liaison:

“The beauty of mentorship is that its part-of lifelong learning as you can have a mentor at every stage of your life and career as we continue to learn and evolve. When choosing a professional mentor, look for someone who has had a successful career you admire or would like to emulate and whose character you also respect. The goal is to spend quality time with someone who embodies the professional characteristics (i.e., trustworthiness, honesty, openness and an eagerness to share) you are striving to achieve. Be sure to layout your needs for confidentiality if you have them. Also, be clear on how often you want to be in contact if this is an ongoing dialog. Then the rest is fun!

I hope I’ve inspired you to want to become or to find a mentor. To make it easy on you, I have volunteered to help make such connections for any SLA-SCC member. Please choose if you want to be a mentor or mentee and what you are looking for (i.e., your field and desired attributes). The more specific you are, the better I can try to match. E-mail me at:

charissajefferson@gmail.com

Reference: