

## **10 Qualities of an Effective Mentor**

### **1 Be A Friend**

- Be your student's cheerleader
- Avoid setting rules or expressing disapproval – that is the parent's job
- Develop trust
- Teach, don't preach

### **2 Have Realistic Goals and Expectations**

- Focus on growth and development – sometimes baby steps are huge steps.
- Build trust, focusing on friendship over performance.

### **3 Have Fun Together!**

- Build a bond by “doing” fun things together.
- Do things your student is interested in.

### **4 Give your Mentees Choice and Voice on Deciding What To Do**

- Together with your mentee, create an “idea file” of things to do.
- Emphasize that his/her enjoyment is important to you.

### **5 Be Positive**

- Give frequent, direct votes of confidence, praise and encouragement.
- Build self esteem, even over the little things.

### **6 Let Your Mentee Have Control over What You Talk About and How**

- Silence is OK – at first your mentee may be very shy.
- Let him/her know he/she can confide in you without fear of judgment or exposure.

### **7 Listen!!!**

- Your goal is for your student to see you as a friend, cheerleader and provider of emotional support.

### **8 Respect the Trust the Mentee Places in You**

- Guide your mentee to develop his/her own strategies to deal with issues
- Reassure and convey acceptance.

### **9 Your Relationship is with your Mentee – Not the Parent/Guardian**

- Let the parent know when you are going places with your mentee.
- Be careful not to be critical of your mentee's family.

### **10 You Are Responsible for Building the Relationship**

- You are the adult here...Remember how awkward children are at 14!