

Identifying Your Multiple Mentors

Appreciating Your Web of Mentoring Relationships

In western societies, mentoring is stereotyped as a one-to-one relationship involving one mentor interacting with a single mentee. In reality, all mentoring occurs in a web of relationships. This web provides both a network of support and a network of resources. Becoming more conscious of your web of mentoring relationships is one way to counteract “mentor burn-out,” especially when confronted with a particularly difficult problem. In your work as a faculty mentor, what is your “web of mentoring relationships”? How can this web help you when you are faced with a particularly challenging situation?

Ways That This Resource Can Provide Support to Me

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Mentoring as the “Giving and Receiving” of Wisdom

Mentoring is defined as a reciprocal relationship — or, in the words of Chungliang Al Huang and Jerry Lynch (*Mentoring: The Tao of Giving and Receiving Wisdom*), mentoring is the “giving and receiving of wisdom.” Oftentimes, mentors can quickly list all they give to those they mentor, but they have more difficulty listing all they receive. For mentors, being able to identify all that they receive is crucial for appreciating the quality of reciprocity and avoiding the danger of “mentor burn-out” that happens to some professors by the last weeks of a semester.

List at least five things you recently have given to students you teach, especially freshmen. How have you mentored these freshmen? Was it easy or hard to create this list?

List at least **ten** things you recently have received from students, especially freshmen. How have your freshmen mentored you this semester? Was it easy or hard to create this list?