



STUDENTS HAVE POWER, TOO

Recently a college student posted a question in a Facebook mentoring group asking how a student could be of support to a mentor. The question implied the mentor had been very helpful to the student and the student wanted to offer reciprocal help. Students are very powerful! They can be of real support to their mentors as they simultaneously enhance their own skills, résumés, and spheres of influence. Students:

ARE SKILLED AT CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY.

Change happens fast, but students are (hopefully) learning the most recent technology. Mentors in a business environment may not be as up to date and might benefit from a tutorial.

KNOW WHAT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES APPEAL TO THEIR GENERATION.

Students may be able to support their mentors by recommending new products and services (or modifications to products and services) that will help the mentor's bottom line.

CAN ARRANGE ON CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTORS.

Professionals may welcome the opportunity to speak, or possibly teach a course, on a college campus to learn, enhance their résumés, or meet future hires. Students are knowledgeable about what topics would interest other students; know when and where on campus to hold events to maximize attendance; and have the authority through their roles in campus organizations to recommend professionals for on campus roles. Some of these may be compensated through student activity funds.

ASK GREAT QUESTIONS.

One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it to someone else. Just by listening, learning, and asking great questions, you are helping your mentor learn.

PAY IT FORWARD.

A student who really appreciates what their mentor has done for them can pass it on by serving as a mentor themselves. They can, for example, visit their high school or middle school.

SUPPORT A CAUSE.

Perhaps a mentor supports an environmental cause, a blood bank, youth group, or similar organization. A student may be able to help organize an affiliate organization on campus, recruit student volunteers, raise money, or invite the group for a campus visit.

MAY BE APPRECIATIVE.

Mentors may want to have a positive influence on the next generation. Students, by being themselves, learning, and being appreciative may be more helpful than they will ever know. A simple verbal thank you or sending an email or a written note on nice stationery may go a long way.

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