

Marquette University Alumni Association Mentor Program

Executive Summary

Goals

- Meet a significant and increasing demand for students to gain insight from alumni by helping to prepare them for their professional journey following graduation from Marquette. Alumni are also yearning to establish meaningful interactions with current students
- Develop a local and distance mentor program to connect alumni nationwide who are interested in learning from and helping students by sharing their career and professional experiences
- Provide a vehicle for University Advancement to further engage college deans, chairs, faculty and campus partners with a valuable program to support their students and reintroduce and build relationships with alumni mentors

Program Overview

- A 1:1 match with current students and alumni nationwide based upon their college and major, field of interest and potential post-graduation geographic destination (when applicable)
- Students are responsible for driving the relationship with their mentors. Mentees and mentors develop and submit goals at the program's outset and are accountable for meeting them
- Program duration: entire academic year (late-September to late-April)
- 2017-18 Campus Partners: College of Business Administration; College of Health Sciences; Diederich College of Communication; Graduate School; Klingler College of Arts and Sciences (Biological Sciences, English, History, Philosophy, Psychology); Opus College of Engineering; Honors Program; Kohler Center for Entrepreneurship; Marquette Athletics; Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
2018-19 pilots: College of Nursing, Trinity Fellows, Urban Scholars
- Mentee-mentor matches in 2013-14 (program pilot): 30
- Mentee-mentor matches in 2018-19: 125
- Program growth since inception in 2013-14: 316 percent
- Mentors reside in more than 25 states, ranging from California to New York and Oregon to Florida
- Number of participants since the program's inception in 2013-14
 - 130 mentors (many of whom return annually)
 - 350 mentees

Successes to date

- 2016 Pride of CASE District V award recipient: Best Student Alumni Programming
- Creation of the Encuentros mentor program, offering student mentees to mentor first generation, low income or underrepresented Cristo Rey Jesuit High School students with an introduction to the college experience. The partnership is in support of the university's Hispanic Serving Institution initiative
- Program survey results:
 - 100 percent of participants would recommend the program to fellow students and alumni
 - 99 percent of mentor and mentee survey respondents indicated the program exceeded or met expectations
 - 94 percent of mentors are returning to the program in 2018-19, with many referring fellow alumni as future program participants
 - More than 90 percent of mentors and mentees annually complete their established goals

Successes to date (continued)

- Mentors are volunteering for, supporting and attending other Marquette alumni programs beyond the mentor initiative (including hosting events and serving as panelists)
- Mentees have:
 - Secured full-time positions through their mentor following graduation
 - Secured internships with their mentor
 - Traveled nationwide to shadow their mentor
 - Continued the mentor relationship following the formal conclusion of the program (spring each year)
- Mentors see networking with other alumni mentor participants as a valuable program benefit
- Mentors are re-introduced to the college or major from which they graduated through interaction with respective faculty mentor program partners
- Strong faculty collaboration participation with deans, department chairs, faculty and campus partners
- Program is nationally recognized based upon the alumni, student, academic/campus partner and University Advancement collaboration. University program inquiries include Northwestern University; University of Arizona; University of Georgia; Ohio University; Miami University; Emory University; University of Illinois; Duquesne University; and Eastern Illinois University (alumnus mentor serves as graduate school dean and provost and duplicates the MUAA Mentor Program)
- Mentors are replicating this program at their place of business, including a Chicago advertising agency and Milwaukee non-profit
- Program has been featured as a track or panel session at various conferences, including CASE V (2017 master session, 2015, 2016 panel session); Higher Education Mentoring Roundtable with the nation's top collegiate mentor programs, including Stanford University, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Notre Dame and Wake Forest University (2016, 2017, 2018); University of New Mexico National Mentor Institute (2014, 2016); and Jesuit Advancement Administrators (2015, 2016, 2018). It's also been highlighted in several higher education publications
- Academic Impressions webcast (2018, 2019) with approximately 140 universities nationwide and 95 percent satisfaction, CASE Online Seminar (2018)
- Program mentor and mentee testimonials:
 - "It's been one of the most impactful activities I've participated in on campus- and more than many of my classes."
 - "Program is the best of all of the mentoring programs that I have been a part of my entire career."
 - "I've told all my friends about it because it's such an amazing program."
 - "I wish this program was available when I was a student."
 - "I came into the mentor program with little to no expectations that it would impact my life, but I found it to be an incredible experience, including having a mentor who truly cares about my future success."
 - "I think the program is wonderful. I'm a thousand miles from campus but I don't think it hampers the experience."
- 2016 CASE V conference attendee testimonial: "Best session of the conference. The program was presented in such a way that it could be applied to any size institution. I was so excited to get to the airport and retype my notes and tailor to my school. Really well done!"

Dan DeWeerd
Engagement Director, University Advancement
Marquette University
daniel.deweerd@marquette.edu; 414/288-4740