CLC 12 – Mentorship

The Important Role of Mentors

Having a mentor in not only important, but it can be a powerful and rewarding experience. As part of your CLC Graduation Project, you will be asked to find a mentor(s) to support and guide you through completion of your project.

Mentorship is a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. It is a learning and development partnership between someone with vast experience and someone who wants to learn. Mentors play a key role in helping you with career-life development, including planning, decision making, providing exposure to possibilities, and finding emerging opportunities.

Choosing a Mentor

Choosing a mentor isn't necessarily a difficult task, but it should be something you put some thought into.

A peer is someone who is about your age: a classmate, friend or buddy; however, a mentor is NOT the same thing as a peer. **Your mentor should be an adult that you trust**, *e.g. family member, community member, teacher*; they must have some expertise or knowledge in the area you are exploring for your CLC Graduation Project; and they should be able to give you feedback and suggestions (in-person or via telephone, email, Zoom, etc).

When choosing a mentor here are some things to consider:

1. **Values**: It is important to make sure your values align with the person you are considering as a potential mentor. This will help build a better relationship.

2. **Communication**: You want to make sure the person you have in mind can communicate with you in a way that is easy for you to understand.

3. **Willingness**: This person must be willing to help and feel comfortable to readily share with you.

4. **Expectations**: Ensure you define what you are looking for in the mentorship so that you and your potential mentor are on the same page*, e.g. how much time you would like to meet with your mentor and how they can help you.*

5. **Personality**: Finding someone with a complementary personality to yours can help better develop your mentorship.

Next Steps

Once you have a mentor:

1. You need to discuss what an ideal mentorship will be with your mentor. Will it be informal? How will you communicate with each other? **You need to define the expectations of your mentorship with your mentor from the beginning. They should not be the one leading your project.**

2. Discuss about the duration of your mentorship: will it be one time, occasional or long term – this will depend on the support you need for your project and what works best between you and your mentor for time commitment.

3. If you are having troubles with finding a mentor, please connect with your CLC teachers.