

The Key to Mentorship

The Newsletter of the DC PBK Mentorship Network

Cycle Kickoff

The Mentorship Mixer was a great start to this cycle!

On March 3rd, participants of the current Mentorship Network cycle met at the PBK Headquarters for the Mentorship Mixer. We had a great afternoon of mingling, sharing experiences, and getting to know our new matches!

We started off the event with a round-robin style game to help participants get to know each other better. Participants shared their answers to questions like "What was the best piece of advice you have ever received?" and "What are you most looking forward to in this program?" It was so great to hear so many exciting conversations!

Mentor and mentee matches then had a chance to meet to discuss their goals and expectations for the cycle. Many groups decided when they would have their first meeting and started sharing resources.

We were so thankful to be able to use the PBK Headquarters for this event! Many participants enjoyed seeing the space for the first time and enjoying learning about the history from the artifacts around the building. Mentors and Mentees are now on their own to continue meeting and sharing knowledge.

This Month's Roundup of Stories

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Match Spotlight

In this month's match spotlight, I caught up with mentor Daniel Dogden and his mentees Johanna Butler and Katarina AuBuchon.

What is your favorite thing about spring in DC?

"My favorite thing about D.C. is exploring the different neighborhoods and trying out new restaurants and coffee shops. I love that D.C. is so diverse and brings together people of all different backgrounds. The diversity of backgrounds creates such a vibrant place to work and live (and eat!)." ~Johanna Butler

What is your favorite DC region metro stop and why?

"Foggy Bottom is my go-to stop because that's where I work as a PhD student! I love the bustle of it and how there's always someone playing music outside of the station. Lots of restaurants...I really never have to leave once I come in for the day!" ~Katarina AuBuchon



Mentors and Mentees at the March Mentor Mixer



Mentor Barbara and her mentee Hope

What are you most looking forward to with the mentorship program?

"Sharing experiences, learning, being challenged, and building relationships with smart, strong scholars." ~Daniel Dogden

"Being able to build a relationship with my mentor and have him challenge me to think about my research in non-academic ways. I'm really looking forward to learning more about what my mentor does in his day-to-day work. His work sounds like my dream job, so learning how he got there and what his duties are really appeals to me. I came to DC in the hopes of being able to learn about jobs like his, and the opportunity just fell in my lap with this program!" ~Katarina AuBuchon

"I'm most looking forward to connecting with people outside of my normal professional/social circle who are passionate and intelligent but can also offer a different perspective." ~Johanna Butler

Mentorship Tips

Here are some tips to keep in mind as you develop a relationship with your match.

1. Experienced perspectives are invaluable for young careers.

While mentorship can be valuable at any stage of a career, it's especially important when the mentee doesn't have as much personal experience in the industry. With a mentor, they can benefit from the insights gained through years of experience--without having to spend years of trial and error themselves.

2. The best mentors are the ones who can fill gaps in your skillset.

Don't seek a mentor who's your clone. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. And while mentors can certainly help make the strengths even stronger, it's usually even more valuable to have someone who can give advice in areas where you're struggling.

3. You don't always have to follow a mentor's advice--but listen to it and evaluate it.

One important thing to understand about mentorship is that the mentor can't live your life for you. They're there to provide advice and perspective and make you think differently--not make unilateral decisions for you.

Tips adapted from Forbes.com



Mentors and Mentees at the March Mentor Mixer

Reminder!

Add your details to the PBK website Member Directory by logging into your account at dcpbk.org to keep building your network!