

## ***Investing In Others As A Mentor***

**A**re you ready, willing and able to mentor others? Are you emotionally and psychologically prepared to invest time and effort in helping another person? Do you have the time, skills and freedom to devote yourself to another person? If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, and you are ready to make a commitment, you may be ready to begin mentoring others.

***To mentor is to change a life***, if only in small ways. It can be applied to a variety of people, situations and purposes. Mentoring can range from an impromptu, off-the-cuff intervention, to an intense long-term relationship.

More and more businesses and government organizations use mentoring as a tool for organizational growth and development, not just for career development. Mentoring is quickly becoming a valuable tool in preparing an organization for competitive challenges and succession planning.

However, be aware that taking on a formal mentoring assignment may mean occasional inconveniences and less time for other duties. And, mentoring that causes you significant stress or loss in other areas of your life, should be weighed carefully before you make a commitment. Yet, if you are ready, the personal satisfaction may be well worth your time and effort.

If you have never been a mentor before but feel you are in a unique position and ready to become one, seek out people and resources to help you prepare for your new role. As a mentor, you should be adding value to a person, enriching their quality of life and, expanding their life purpose and capabilities. As a mentor, you need to believe in the value of your work without worrying about returned favors. If you have, or can develop, a freely giving nature, you will likely mentor all through your life – probably without thinking much about it. ♦

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