



MENTOR'S DESK

Inspiration for Mentoring

by Jane Linde Capistran

As I pondered the “mentoring” subject for my MNSOTA article, I felt the need for some inspiration to get me going. And then it struck me: maybe we all need some inspiration, to seek out mentorship in our lives, not only new teachers, but for some of us who have taught for many years.

Thus I've gathered some quotes from various walks of life. Some of these you may have seen on a daily calendar or even on a napkin at a coffee shop. But it is my hope that one or two of these may resonate with you and your new school year, and you will be inspired to seek out a mentor or become a mentor.

I've come to believe there are only two things you need in any new teaching situation to succeed: humility and inquiry.

Lisa Delpit

Mentoring brings us together—across generation, class and often race—in a manner that forces us to acknowledge our interdependence, to appreciate, in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words, that “we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny.” In this way, mentoring enables us to participate in the essential but unfinished drama of reinventing community, while reaffirming that there is an important role for each of us in it.

Marc Freedman

A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.

Oprah Winfrey

I've learned that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

Andy Rooney

Everyone has a transferable commodity: knowledge. Sharing your unique expertise and making introductions for someone creates a lasting legacy.

Marsha Blackburn

In every art, beginners must start with models of those who have practiced the same art before them. And it is not only a matter of looking at the drawings, paintings, musical compositions, and poems that have been and are being created; it is a matter of being drawn into the individual work of art, of realizing that it has been made by a real human being, and trying to discover the secret of its creation.

Ruth Whitman

Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.

John Crosby

One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer

A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could.

Unknown

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