

Mentoring Underrepresented Minority Engineers

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What is Mentoring?

- Mentoring is about one person helping another to achieve something.
- It is about giving help and support in a non-threatening way. You don't have to take the advice given.
- Mentoring is an exclusive one-to-one relationship and is completely confidential.
- Mentoring is valuable throughout our lives. Corporations do it.
- We will need multiple mentors.

How to choose a mentor?

- If possible, someone who has achieved what you want to achieve: i.e. a role model.
- Someone in a position to assist you achieve your goals.
- Someone who cares about you and can be reached when you need them. A mentor is often also a friend.
- You must take the initiative in establishing a mentor relationship.

My Mentor Credentials

- I'm familiar with your universities.
- Taught at Morgan State, Howard, and Prairie View A&M
- Have mentored graduate students at MSU from North Carolina A&T, Tuskegee, Tennessee State, U. of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, New Mexico State, U. of Texas at El Paso, Georgia Tech. and MIT. Some on your faculties.
- Have recruited at Florida International and City College of NY

People I have mentored.

- George Baker (Xavier University) and Charles Tolliver (Prairie View A&M)
- Larry Pipes of the RAND Corp
- Robert Norwood of the Department of the Army and NASA
- Antoine Garibaldi, President of Gannon University
- About 120 graduate students at MSU

My Academic and Engineering Credentials

- Academic: Have held most university academic positions from assistant professor to full professor to dean of engineering to vice president for research and graduate studies to president.
- Engineering: Have held positions as researcher, Army R&D Manager, technology consultant, and member of the board of several technology companies.

Engineering Career Paths

- Academic: Teaching and Research, Ph.D. required.
- Research: Usually government labs, Ph.D. usually required.
- Design Engineer: Master's needed, Ph.D. for cutting edge technology
- Manufacturing: Bachelor's or Master's and lots of experience
- Sales, logistics, and Service: Talent with people

Applying to Graduate School

- Your most important asset is your GPA: money in the bank.
- Senior projects are desirable. Winning a prize is even better.
- Undergraduate Research. Helps to establish a mentor relationship
- Letters of recommendation: Those who think you're special.
- Personal statement: What is your vision for yourself?
- Choose the right university and mentor.

Summary

- A mentor does not have to be a role model, but someone you have confidence in.
- At this stage of your education, you should prepare yourself for multiple engineering career paths as well as advanced degrees. You don't have to choose now.
- Graduate School gives you more options.
- You should seek and be open to multiple mentors.