

Here's My Card: Finding Mentors Through Professional Networking

Tips for Finding Mentors

- Keep an eye out for potential mentors everywhere, from large conferences to department seminars at your school. Have your business card at the ready!
- Seek mentors in research fields you're curious about. No question is silly.
- When speaking to a potential mentor, you can begin by asking a question about their research or their experience at their job. Take notes. Show you listened carefully by referencing something they said in your follow-up email.
- Follow-up emails should be written either before or soon after returning from the event where you met. Short and sweet is OK.
- During industry internships, check out the company's LGBT Employee Resource Group (ERG).
- LGBTQ colleagues tend to know each other, and may come together for a club or intramural sports team. Students/interns are often welcome to join.
- Your eventual goal should be to build a *network* of mentors possessing a variety of identities and experiences.

Tips for Working with Mentors

- If you don't click with an assigned advisor, it's usually ok to switch to someone who you have an easier time talking to.
- Keep in touch. Check in occasionally so that your mentor doesn't only hear from you when you're in crisis or need a letter of recommendation.
- Mentorships can be short-term or life-long. Don't stress if a mentor becomes unavailable (unless they owe you a letter of recommendation!). Take it as an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with a different mentor.
- Think about becoming a mentor yourself someday! This will also help you become a better mentee.

Online Resources

<http://www.mentornet.net/>

<http://www.noglstp.org/>

<http://www.minoritypostdoc.org/>

<http://www.ostem.org/>

<http://www.queerstem.org/>

<http://www.pointfoundation.org/>