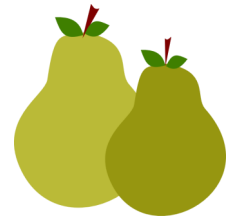


# THE PAIRING



A Mentor/Mentee Program of the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce

2016

## MENTEE:

One who is being mentored.

### Becoming a Mentee

Step one; asking for help. It's always the first step that's the hardest but what if you look at it differently? Having a mentor is one of the top reasons many successful professionals credit that success. The days of going it alone are over. We Google for help, we call our friends/family for help, and we read everything we can on our profession but what if we had someone to call? That voice of experience and reason. A trusted advisor? Someone who isn't affected by our decisions but has the knowledge and experience to help with some answers?

The Chamber Pairing Program is meant to align you with a mentor that is a perfect fit for you. Someone who has experience along the lines of your needs. With a structured mentorship program, you'll be able to choose what you want help with and for how long.

Being mentored is all about learning and growing. As a mentee, you are creating a relationship with a trusted advisor that is prepared to serve as a coach, confidant and sounding board. Someone to provide you perspective and questions that encourage learning and challenge you to think in new and creative ways.

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

*- Zig Ziglar*

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Photo Caption

## Being a Mentee

- Be Inspired
- Have a Trusted Advisor
- Feel Empowered
- Get Support
- Have a Listening Ear
- Reach your Goals



## A Reason

“If I had only known...” are probably the toughest words to hear from a person who has tried so hard to succeed and failed. Thinking back on your career, are there times when you wished you had someone to consult with? Times when, had you had just a little more information or the right contact, would have changed your life to be even better? Maybe it was as simple as a supplier with better rates and faster delivery or just those few tricks of the trade. How would you have known? A friend or family member? Probably not. A competitor? Definitely not, but a mentor? Very possibly.

Having a mentor could save you from countless sleepless nights, stress related health issues, and possibly financial ruin. Whether it's working through growth challenges or mine fields, having a sounding board or a second opinion, it helps to have a trusted ally on your side. You may also make a friend and good business connection along the way.

## Who can see with those blinders on?

Have you ever insisted on something so strongly that you were almost belligerent? Finding out later you were dead wrong but only after alienating people and maybe even losing money? What would have changed your situation if you would have had one person to help you see the light before you got too far off sides? Having a mentor gives you that person. Someone to help you see the light and that can challenge you to think outside the box.

## What's in it for me?

Absolutely nothing if you're not willing to give 100%. This is a rewarding program. You have to be willing to do the work. Set the goals, ask the questions and listen to the answers. Once you do that, the rewards are immeasurable.

## What is Mentoring?

It was Homer's epic tale *The Odyssey* that formally introduced us to the concept of mentoring: Mentor was a friend of Odysseus, who placed Mentor in charge of his son when Odysseus left for the Trojan War. Today, Meriam-Webster defines mentoring as a wise and trusted counselor or teacher; an influential senior sponsor or supporter. This is a good definition, but merely a starting point in the journey of understanding mentoring.

Mentoring is a relationship between two individuals, with the experienced individual, the mentor, serving as coach, cheerleader, confidant, role model, devil's advocate, counselor and, when possible, a “door opener” for the mentee. It's a relationship based on trust and mutual respect in which both partners, the mentor and the mentee, have responsibilities and should benefit from the relationship.



## How the program works

- Commit time and energy to the program. It takes time to develop an open and honest trusting relationship. Without trust, a meaningful learning/growth relationship cannot take hold.
- Come to the table motivated and empowered to plan and direct your own professional life.
- Own the responsibility for your development, learning and professional growth.
- Be open to new ideas & creative ways.
- Be open and honest and come to each mentoring conversation prepared.
- Be willing to learn and grow both personally and professionally.
- Be able to clearly articulate your goals/needs.
- Be able to accept constructive feedback.
- Be willing to be challenged.
- Follow through with the commitment.
- Sign a confidentiality agreement.
- Have fun!



Photo Caption

## The next step

Are you in? Great! You've made an awesome decision! One that, if done right, will help you in more ways than you can imagine.

The Chamber has a print application you will need to fill out letting us know your skills and time commitment which can vary from three months to a year. Once you have done that, we will put it through the approval process and let you know.

Once accepted, you will be notified of a potential mentor (as they come available) and with approval from both parties we move forward with an agreement that is specific to your terms.

**\*\*Note**, we understand that things can change on either side and if at any time someone needs to end the contract we can do so. We prefer that you commit to your entire contracted time but we understand that issues arise that aren't always in our control. Of course, you can extend your time also.

## Our Mission Statement

“The business and purpose of the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce shall be to improve the image of the business community in Ferndale, Washington; to increase pride in the community and to enhance and support quality economic growth. It shall also be to encourage open communication among citizenry, and to celebrate diversity of all within the community and to develop programs to accomplish these ideals.”

## Contact Us

Give Ann a call for more information about our Mentor Program.

**Ferndale Chamber of Commerce**  
2007 Cherry St/PO Box 1264  
Ferndale, WA 98248

(360) 384-3042

[info@ferndale-chamber.com](mailto:info@ferndale-chamber.com)

Visit us on the web at [ferndale-chamber.com](http://ferndale-chamber.com)

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**Ferndale Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 1264  
Ferndale, WA 98248

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