



Partners for Success

Faculty Mentoring Students Program

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Reflections from a Mentor

Mentoring with a Passion

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During my first semester at CSULB in the fall of 1988, I met Professor David Bernstein from the History Department outside a classroom where I was teaching. He introduced himself and asked if I would be

interested in participating in the university's inaugural faculty mentoring students program called Partners for Success. Being new to campus at the time, I thought that I was the one who needed the mentoring. I didn't know anybody in the university or in the City of Long Beach to which I had just moved. Bernstein's approach made me think about the mentors I had in high school in Bolivia and at the universities I attended in Mexico and Michigan. I was very fortunate in my life to have the mentors I had.

Celebrating its 15th year, the Partners for Success mentoring program creates an environment where faculty members work directly with students to provide a sense of direction regarding their career plans, personal adjustments to the university, family related issues and referrals to university resources. It also creates a casual environment where faculty have the opportunity to meet and interact with administrators and faculty members from other departments. These types of interactions have been truly beneficial, because I have not only met and worked as a mentor for students, but also

benefited from the guidance and mentoring of other friends I made through the program. In terms of increasing my awareness of university services, the mentoring program has been one of the best experiences I have had on campus.

Additionally, my own experiences as an international student enable me to interact successfully with students from other cultures and to help them negotiate this culture. If I have any legacy as a mentor, I believe it is in affecting the lives of students who then go out and make their mark on the world.

Being a mentor also provides me with unique opportunities on campus. In my creative work I have collaborated with students and faculty participating in the Partners for Success mentoring program. The students who participate in the projects not only gain production experience, but also benefit from exposure to collaborative work in the arts. This broadens their experience in the College of the Arts from a single discipline to an interdisciplinary approach and is immensely valuable in the training of future artists.

In my 19 years as a professor, I have developed an approach to teaching that is more a passion than a philosophy. I believe that the essence of teaching is mentoring. Mentoring allows one to connect with a younger generation in a way that not only involves sharing knowledge, but it also creates an active and

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