



The First Three Things to Do as a New Mentor

With your Scholar

1. Call or email your Scholar and set up a time to get together.
2. At that first meeting: Celebrate their acceptance to the program, the two of you being matched, and going to college!
 - a. Learn about your Scholar – family, school, etc. and talk about BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE (Facebook? Texting? Email?)
 - b. Make a calendar for the year, including academic calendar events (beginning/ending of term, exam weeks, vacation), tuition payment due dates, and some dates for getting together and perhaps monthly reminders to check in with your Scholar (email or phone).
 - c. Set the dates for your next few meetings.
3. At your second meeting (which might be at the Freshman Retreat where this topic is covered!): Talk about paying for college, which is often a barrier to even getting started at school. You will learn more about financial aid and student budgets at the New Mentor Training.
 - a. Review your Scholar's financial aid award letter to get an idea of how much cash/work study/debt the student will need each year to pay for school.
 - b. Try to get a sense of how supportive the parents are, and if the student has talked with his/her parents about paying for school.
 - c. Start working on a school -year budget.

On your own – much of this will be covered during our new mentor training

1. Familiarize yourself with the “Ideas for Getting Started and Developing Your Relationship,” “What I actually do for my Scholar,” and “Mentor Tips” (below).
2. Learn the lingo about financial aid (need/merit based, federal/state programs, loans, work study), and how students can pay for college, including if your student is undocumented and ineligible for federal aid. A great resource is the EdFund which has much online info about paying for college. www.edfund.org
3. Spend some time reading about mentoring, identifying the elements common to successful mentoring relationships.