**How to Get Engagement in Program**

Written By Tom Marriott, Mentoring Coordinator

In this note, please let me address a common feedback I get from both mentees and mentors: **" Had a good initial contact, then nothing after that."** Because this initial contact is usually with soph students, many of them especially at that maturity and experience level do not know how best to use a mentor.

A good proportion of our mentees and mentors have great mentoring experiences. In many cases, that is because the mentor is proactive in coaching the mentee on how best to utilize the mentor. With many mentees, persistence by the mentor is necessary to establish a good mentoring relationship and sustain it.

In some cases, the mentees take the more proactive role in the mentoring process.

**More often, I believe, the success in a mentoring relationship is up to the mentor and their proactive and periodic coaching and persistence.**

When the mentees apply and are paired with mentors, I tell them to use their mentor to tell them what it is like to work in the real world their EFA areas of interest, how to successfully navigate the challenging CBE curriculum, periodically review their resume, advise them on job opportunities, etc.**These are the areas that in many cases the mentor must coach the mentee to actually accomplish quality discussion regarding them.**

The CBE faculty is encouraging the mentees to use the mentoring program, but the **mentors must take the lead in making the mentoring experience valuable to the mentees.** This takes mentor time and effort -- I know, as I also am an active mentor.