

# Hilltop Mentors

## Hilltop Leadership Development

Student Life • St. Edward's University

### **What is Hilltop Mentors?**

The first semester of college can be a difficult transition for students who are away from home for the first time. New students, however prepared they may feel, often feel lonely or isolated on campus. St. Edward's University is committed to helping connect new students to the campus community. Hilltop Mentors, coordinated by the Student Life Office, is designed to match new students to experienced faculty and staff who serve as support systems and a resource for new students.

### **What is a Mentor?**

Mentors are coaches, role models, advisors, guides and referral agents for freshmen and new transfer students. Mentors assist new students in getting acclimated to campus life. Faculty and staff mentors have a demonstrated knowledge of St. Edward's University and desire to assist new students as they acclimate to our campus. Being a mentor allows a person to advise and impact the next generation of leaders. Mentors have an opportunity to share their wealth of experiences, knowledge, and skills with a student Mentee.

A mentor establishes relationship with their Mentee in order to help them become successful during their first year at SEU. Mentors and Mentees meet for lunch, attend University events, or just keep in contact throughout the semester. They also can participate in activities sponsored by Hilltop Mentors. Mentors help their Mentees establish goals and refer them to campus resources as necessary.

### **What is the time commitment?**

- Mentors are required to make contact with their Mentee at least once every two weeks. Contact can be through email, phone, Facebook, or in person.
- An initial in person meeting is highly suggested to get to know one another and being the relationship building.
- Hilltop Mentors semester activities are available and encouraged to attend at your discretion.
- A required one hour training session must be attending by all Mentors. If you are unable to make one of the sessions, an on-line training can be made available.

## **How Long Does the Relationship Last?**

The relationship officially last through the end of the academic year. You will be asked at the end of the year if you would like to continue serving as a Mentor. Many Mentors and Mentees build friendships that last through the rest of college and some that will last for the rest of their lives! It is up to you!

## **How Will I Be Matched with My Mentee?**

All mentors will be assigned at least one Mentee. Mentors can specify if they would like more than one Mentee (not to exceed three). Mentors and Mentees are matched based on similar backgrounds and co-curricular interests. These matches are based upon the information you and the Mentee provide on the application. Recruiting for Mentees will occur during Summer Orientation; therefore, matching should be complete by the start of the Fall semester. Often, there are more Mentors than Mentees, so a pool of potential Mentors will be created in this case.

## **Why Should I Join Hilltop Mentors?**

Being a mentor is a great opportunity to help others find pride and self-satisfaction, and raise your level of concern for the students of the St. Edward's community. Mentors get the opportunity to shape the minds of new SEU students and help him/her adjust to life on a campus. A mentoring program is also directly related to a higher retention of new students and a higher GPA (as compared to their fellow non-mentored new students).

You will grow professionally and increase your connection with the campus community. Learning goes both ways when you mentor, you will learn things from your Mentee that you might never have known. Above all you will know you've made a difference in a student's life.

## **How Do I Become a Mentor?**

You must be faculty or staff member with working knowledge of campus and its various resources and a desire to help college students become successful. For an application please contact Leslie Sans at 448-8422 or at [leslies@stedwards.edu](mailto:leslies@stedwards.edu)

You may also visit our website for more information at <http://www.stedwards.edu/stulife/leadership.htm>

