USC Viterbi Mentoring Workshop

Timothy M. Pinkston, Ph.D.
Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

September 2019
Mentoring is a most fundamental continuous act in helping the intellectual and spiritual growth of a human being, in their quest for forging their path in life. It is different and additive to nurturing--which connotes a parent-child relation with a material component. Rather, it is a relationship of soon-to-be equals. The mentor is an inexhaustible source of mental and psychological support, which solidifies one's fortitude and helps unleash one's potential.

Mentoring provides texture, advice and context to help individuals increase their vision of the future, hone their skills, solidify their approach, stoke their passion. It requires mutual trust, sincerity, and respect; and provides the priceless enjoyment of helping someone reach their potential to the fullest. It is a wonderful process of discovery, for both the mentor and the mentee. It is therefore quintessentially human. For this reason it has a natural and required home in academic and research environments.

We are fortunate to be able to be in the position of practicing and celebrating it.

Yannis C. Yortsos, Dean, Viterbi School of Engineering
Useful Mentoring Resources

USC Mentoring Website: https://faculty.usc.edu/mentoring/
- USC’s 40 Suggestions about Creating a Mentoring Culture
- Top 10 Tips for Mentors
- Top 10 Tips to Maximize Your Mentoring (for Mentees)
- “Empowering Your Mentoring Program” (presentation by Dr. Joan Lakoski)
- “Giving and Receiving Feedback” (presentation by Dr. Charles Gomer)

Viterbi Mentoring Website: https://viterbischool.usc.edu/faculty/#Mentoring
- Viterbi Mentoring Programs and Activities Summary
- Faculty Mentoring Memo 11-13-07
- Junior Faculty Mentoring Memo 8-26-10
- Faculty Mentoring Luncheons Memo 5-10-10
- Mentor-mentee and peer-mentoring luncheons, sponsored by the School
- Annual group mentoring sessions, hosted by Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs
- NSF Career proposal internal review, organized by Vice Dean for Research
- Understand mentoring roles, responsibilities, benefits, and expectations:
  — identify needs, set attainable goals, communicate them effectively