

Ingram Mentor Program: Overview & Expectations

Overview

- The Ingram mentoring program seeks to foster meaningful and productive one-on-one relationships between Ingram alumni and current scholars through the sharing of professional and life experiences.
- It is centered on the dual goals of strengthening alumni connections with Ingram Scholars as well as placing current scholars on the path to success.
- In so doing, we hope to promote E. Bronson Ingram's goal of fostering a lifelong commitment to service and to finding solutions for critical societal problems.

Expectations

While the program is fairly informal, we do have a few requirements for our pairings:

- We ask that you establish broad goals for the year as well as expectations for each other at your first meeting to help guide conversations. These will also be shared with the Alumni Board and Mentoring Committee.
- We ask that you touch base with each other by phone/Skype/Facetime on a regular basis, ideally at least once a month. We know that life can get busy so if there is a month where you only communicate via email or text we understand. However, we ask that you both commit to once a month.
- The Alumni Board Mentoring Committee will check in with you every so often to be sure you are keeping in touch and have everything you need. We ask that you respond and provide honest feedback on how things are going.

Helpful Hints

We asked mentors and current scholars who participated in the first few years of the program to share helpful tips for how they maintained successful pairings. Here is the advice that they shared:

- Set up a standing day/time every month (like the 10th of every month at 7pmEST). Then you don't need to remember to reach out to schedule a time every month but instead you just need to contact the other person if you need to reschedule.
- If you do not have a standing time to talk, set up your next meeting when you wrap every phone call.
- At the end of each call, outline 'action' items for each person between now and the next call, if that makes sense. This can be something like prepare a draft for a summer project proposal or come prepared with 1-2 questions that have come up for each of you since your last call.
- If you both are in Nashville, meet in person! For scholars who do not have cars, ask your mentor to meet you on/near campus or to pick you up.
- Email and text throughout the month just to check in. This can be as simple as "thinking of you" or a targeted follow-up to see how things are going since you last spoke. Also, become Facebook friends to catch glimpses of each others' lives over social media!
- Remember that this is intended to be a partnership; therefore, both mentor and current scholar have a responsibility for the success of this pairing – to actively engage with each other – and neither should hesitate to reach out to the other.