YWCA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



***What is the YWCA Mentorship Program?***

The Vancouver YWCA, in partnership with schools in the Lower Mainland has a unique Mentorship program which offers professional women the opportunity to mentor a young woman interested in exploring her career.

The program began in 1991 and works in partnership with Lower Mainland high schools as an extension of career preparation and work experience, and to date, over 1100 girls have been matched with mentors.

The success of the Mentorship program is due to the combined efforts of volunteer mentors and local teachers who have come together with the YWCA to provide a vibrant, multicultural network benefiting students and mentors alike. What other program provides young women who are just about to leave high school with the opportunity to meet and share perspectives with some of Vancouver’s most dynamic women?

***What do mentors do?***

Mentors are the highly valued backbone of this program. They are professional women who come from all over Vancouver, bringing a diverse range of careers and experiences. Mentors are matched with students who have similar career and/or personal interests and volunteer their time to share their life experience with a student.

After an orientation and meet and greet reception held in October/November, each mentor and her student arrange to meet for a minimum of once a month during the school year. This gives our mentors and their “mentees” an opportunity to get to know each other. What you do in these meetings is up to the mentor and mentee to decide together. Activities can involve things such as work place visits, university tours, resume or application building, or bond-building recreational activities. It is up to you and your mentee to determine how you would like your time to be spent together.

***What do students do?***

Young women sign up for Mentorship as a course or a school club. These students have demonstrated a history of responsibility to participate in the program. They are paired with professional women in short-term one-to-one relationships.

The mentoring relationship will introduce young women to new career and life possibilities, people in different careers, a wider experience beyond the classroom, decision-making skills regarding personal values, education and career choices.

Questions?

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