



Women's Jewelry Association

Metropolitan Chapter Mentoring Program

General Description:

As part of the WJA Metro Chapter's mission to provide programs and activities that support growth opportunities for its members, the Mentoring/Mentee program is being implemented.

Carolyn Jacoby is the Chapter coordinator and will be the program liaison. Efforts are underway to develop a database of members interested in becoming a Mentor or a Mentee. For more information and/or to request an application, contact Carolyn at cjacoby@apcpearls.com or phone: 212-747-0300.

The Mentor:

A mentor is someone who can act as a sounding board for ideas and plans. They bring their own unique experience of life and business and are willing to share their skills and know how – and their contacts – with less experienced business people.

Mentors have the generosity of spirit to share their hard-earned knowledge and experience, and the communication skills that are a mentor's trademark.

A Mentor has:

- The ability to listen and empathize with people.
- A willingness to offer encouragement, sympathy and practical advice, ideas and opinions.
- A respect for other people's view and the flexibility to take these in stride.
- Industry experience.
- A supportive approach that allows others to take responsibility for their own decisions.
- A willingness to offer time and skills voluntarily for the benefit of other women in the jewelry industry.

A Mentor's role is to support and develop, stimulate and challenge. Mentors are not consultants. They do not take the place of existing professional advisers. They will suggest and advise from their own experience. By acting as a sounding board for a Mentee, they walk along side them to develop and encourage successful career growth.

Rewards:

- Develop your own coaching skills.
- Acquire a new perspective on your business.
- Widen your network of contacts.
- Supporting aspiring jewelry industry professionals and helping to fulfill a vital mission of WJA.

The Mentee:

An aspiring or established industry professional looking for a new or refreshed perspective on the development and growth of their business or career.

Most of us benefit from having someone with whom we can discuss our hopes, plans and problems and feel supported by.

A Mentor can offer:

- Access to a wealth of industry knowledge and experience from someone who's been there, seen it and done it.
- An impartial, non-judgmental and different perspective to look at current professional circumstances and identify strategies and opportunities for growth.
- Help getting motivated when the going is tough.
- Help with setting goals, defining how to achieve them and developing accountability.
- Confidence and support to move ahead.

What a Mentor won't do:

- Sort out all your problems.
- Tell you what to do.
- Take the place of professional advisers, career counselors and business consultants.