

Mentorship Modules

Discussion Guide 1: Getting Acquainted & Goal Setting

The CLA's goal with mentorship is to develop students' leadership abilities through intentional relationships with community leaders. We also know from both research and practical experience that reciprocal learning happens between mentors and students, and we celebrate those discoveries. The goal of this first session is for you to get acquainted with your mentor/mentee and to establish goals, communication channels, and your meeting schedule moving forward.

Discuss

See below for some prompts (but feel free to go wherever the conversation takes you):

- **Strengths + Passions:** What are some of your strengths and passions? Mentors, please include ways you believe you may be able to best help your mentee.
- **Educational + Professional Pathway:** What has been your educational and/or professional background or pathway thus far? What professional or educational goals do you have for the future?
- **Background:** What identities do you hold that are center to who you are and your experience of the world (e.g., gender, ethnicity, faith, physical ability, etc.)?
- **Past Experiences:** What are some life-shaping experiences that have impacted you and/or which may be helpful for your mentor/mentee to know?
- Is there anything else that feels helpful to note or to ask?

Discover

Our goal is to facilitate a space where mentors and students can speak into and shape the relationship to meet their own personal interests and goals. You are both entering this partnership with unique talents, experiences, and skills that will both inform and shape your experience in this program. Take a few moments and formulate at least three personal goals for this mentoring partnership. Write them on your [Mentorship Agreement](#) (see below) and also save them somewhere so you can revisit them. Spend some time discussing these goals.

Develop

Finally, today, review and complete the [Mentorship Agreement](#).

- Complete the sections indicating how often you will meet, meeting formats, best methods of communication, and your goals.
- Both mentor and mentee should sign the agreement, and the mentee should return the agreement to the CLA (either in person or emailed to cla@gvsu.edu).
- Discuss how you will handle rescheduling if unexpected conflicts interfere with getting together.

Plan and confirm the date and time of your next meeting.