

ETSU Leadership Minor Mentor Meetings

Each senior in the Leadership Minor is to meet at least 3 times with a mentor mutually selected by the student and the ETSU portfolio advisor. Characteristics of potential mentors are discussed between the student and the portfolio advisor. The mentor is contacted by the advisor and requested to participate. Once the mentor agrees to serve, it is up to the student to make and keep the appointments. A reflection paper is to be written and submitted by the student to the portfolio advisor after the 3 visits.

ETSU appreciates the time and support of campus and community members who serve as Leadership Mentors to students who minor in leadership. The 3 meetings between the mentor and the student are a required part of the student's leadership portfolio. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the student with a role model willing to share the story of their leadership journey and life lessons of a successful leader. Such modeling is even more powerful when the mentor shares a common career or community leadership interest. Our goal is to teach and inspire the student to continue the journey to achieve his/her leadership goals after graduation.

These topic ideas are *suggestions* that can lead to a meaningful discussion for the student and mentor alike. (3 meetings is the suggested minimum)

Visit 1: Getting to know each other and how each sees the world.

To discuss the mentor's background (hometown, family, siblings, important role models); share student's background; mentor's current career; details about career path; education; important mentors that influenced his/her life; mentor's experience combining family and career issues; career and family goals (achieved as well as those still seeking.) A tour of the workplace, sharing duties of various leadership roles is appreciated.

Visit 2: Focus on goals and monitoring progress on goals.

Student and mentor to discuss his/her education to date; educational goals; career goals; special skills, talents; leadership strengths and those areas needing growth; discovering how one learned about those strengths; peer support/pressure; important mentors (friends, family, K-12 and higher education) in his/her life so far. Leadership goals: personal, community, and career. Student might share resume and seek job hunting, and/or future education advice.

Visit 3: Focus on motivation, ethics, lifelong learning, advice, the journey to come.

Discuss motivation; keeping current: books, courses, speakers, workshops, other opportunities that had a great influence on his/her life; graduate school; seeking references; things you wish you could have done differently/lessons learned; commitment to community; service; citizenship; values and ethics in the workplace; share views on leadership; leadership philosophy and share leadership advice.

Portfolio Advisor: Dr. Deborah Harley-McClaskey, Harley@etsu.edu
Department of Cross Disciplinary Studies, East Tennessee State Univ.