



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
BUSINESS

## **GW GLOBAL MBA MENTORING PROGRAM**

COORDINATED BY THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OFFICE OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND THE  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

### **WHAT IT IS**

The mentoring program is a real world, practitioner-oriented accompaniment to the full-time Global MBA Program based on the strategic pairing of MBA students and MBA alumni. The goal of the program is to enhance the educational experience of graduate students through the vast wisdom, talents and networks of the GW School of Business alumni community.

### **HOW IT STARTED**

Launched in Fall 2008, the new Global MBA Program is about doing the right thing. Its curriculum is rooted in the principles of ethics and global business practices, and these two themes are integrated throughout. An international residency is one new requirement, giving students the opportunity to apply their studies in corporate responsibility, leadership and sustainability to real-world business situations at firms around the world. The Global MBA focuses on values of Integrity, Leadership and Team Work.

A mentor program to reinforce the rigorous course seemed an ideal compliment to the new Global MBA. Associate Dean for Graduate Programs Murat Tarimcilar presented the idea to the Dean's Board of Advisors, and challenged them to help pilot it. The board members, along with Murat, the MBA Programs office and the GWSB Office of Development and Alumni Relations designed an MBA Mentoring Program with the goal to recruit enough alumni that all incoming first year Global MBA students would have a mentor available to them when they began their classes. They were astounded at the response from the alumni community! Never before has a program received such a warm welcome and high level of support from MBA alumni.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

The program is administered as a joint partnership of the MBA Programs office and the GWSB Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Incoming students choose to opt into the program (Last year, 95% of them did). They complete a profile that assesses their skills, interests and what they hope to gain from a mentor.

Mentors also complete a profile, answering questions about their skills, expertise and career history (see below) by September 1, 2009.

In the first week of September, mentors and mentees are strategically matched based on their interests, expertise and skill sets. Following the matching process in early September, mentors

and mentees will receive emails with the profile of their match. It is the responsibility of the mentee to reach out to the mentor. The School of Business *does not* monitor the communication between students and alumni. It is expected that mentors and mentees will work out how they best prefer to communicate and how often.

Mentees are required to attend an orientation session to learn how to best utilize their mentor. An orientation is available to mentors as well, but not required.

In response to feedback from the first year of the program, the School of Business will host at least two events per semester for mentors and mentees including a “Meet your Mentor” reception, an informal Happy Hour, a lecture featuring a GW professor, and an end-of-year roundtable and program evaluation. Attendance is not required at events but it is encouraged to further the mentor/mentee relationship.

### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

Complete the mentor application (below) or contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations for more information at 202-994-4803.

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### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **WHO ARE THE MENTEES?**

The mentees are first year students in the full-time Global MBA Program.

#### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A MENTOR?**

You must be a GW MBA alumnus/a with at least two year’s work experience post-degree and be open to volunteering your time and knowledge to an MBA student. If you are not a GW MBA alumnus/a and would like to be a mentor, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

#### **DO I HAVE TO LIVE IN THE WASHINGTON METRO AREA TO BE A MENTOR?**

You do not have to live in the Washington metro area to be a mentor. However to maintain equity amongst student access to mentors, the School of Business suggests that you commit to meeting your mentee in person at least once. This works well for alumni who travel to the DC metro area for business.

#### **HOW MUCH TIME OUT OF MY SCHEDULE WILL THE PROGRAM REQUIRE?**

Being a mentor requires only as much time as you have to give. Students are trained on how to be aware of their mentor’s time and to understand that this is a volunteer program. Most often mentors and mentees set aside time to talk monthly or email every few weeks. In the first year, several pairs had standing monthly appointments while others spoke on

the phone when it was convenient. It is up to the mentor and mentee to negotiate what works best for them.

### **HOW WILL I CONNEC TO MY MENTEE?**

You will connect in whatever way you choose: Email, phone, Twitter, text messages, Facebook, Linked-In, happy hour, lunch, events, office appointments, etc. Students are instructed to communicate with their mentor professionally, but the mode of connection is up to the pair.

### **FOR HOW LONG AM I REQUIRED TO COMMIT?**

The commitment is for two years (the duration of the MBA program), but the emphasis of the program is placed on the student's first year. Several mentors from the first year of the program have enjoyed the program so much that they have agreed to take on a second mentee this fall in addition to maintaining the relationship with their first mentee.

### **IS THERE ANY TRAINING REQUIRED?**

Training and orientation is provided and encouraged, but not required for mentors. This year the orientation program will take place on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. on GW's campus. Alumni mentors will receive an introduction to the program, an overview of the MBA curriculum, and suggestions on how they can best act as a resource for their student. A certified coach will lead the session. Past mentors will discuss their experience with the program. The orientation will be followed by a "Meet your Mentor" reception.

### **WHAT IF MY MENTEE AND I DON'T "CLICK"?**

The School of Business diligently tries to match all applicants as well as possible but as occurs in the real world, not everyone has a perfect match. Please know that regardless of the perfection of the match, all students benefit from the wisdom of a mentor.

When students and mentors don't relate perfectly, it is suggested that they keep working on it and remember that when people are matched via their skill sets *too* perfectly, they may miss learning new things from one another.