

The Dynamic Between Technology-Assisted and Face-to-Face Connections

Tension can exist between technology-facilitated mentorship and the kinds of informal relationships that naturally occur when people with like interests connect. In order to advance mentorship opportunities, this dynamic may best be considered a step-by-step process.

01

Students access technology to find opportunities that meet their goals and interests.

Advisors and other support staff (e.g., resident assistants, student club advisors) should have an awareness of these systems and feel an expectation to guide students to engage with them.

02

Students leverage opportunities to engage like-minded people who can serve as mentors.

Once students participate in an opportunity, faculty, advisors and support staff should be familiar with the various ways to offer mentorship — from small gestures to deeper, more engaged relationships.

Planned Happenstance¹

noun

the concept of creating and transforming unplanned events into opportunities for learning

Utilize a planned-happenstance mentorship approach by encouraging students to transform curiosity into opportunities, seek encounters that produce desirable chance events and overcome barriers to action.

¹Mitchell, K., Levin, A., Krumboltz, J. (1999). *Planned Happenstance: Creating unexpected career opportunities*. *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 77(2): 115-124.