Women in IT Mentoring Program

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Women in IT (WIT)

• Women in IT (WIT) provides a forum for discussion of issues facing women in IT in general and on the University of Illinois campus, networking, coaching, and coordination of outreach efforts to girls considering IT as a career.

• In Spring 2017 WIT launched a pilot mentoring program.
Why Mentoring?

You Tube link: https://youtu.be/e0wXlMGcZ6g?t=5m44s
Spring 2017 Program Format

• Applications completed by January 6, 2017
  • Terms of agreement to attend the orientation session and commit to at least four mentoring sessions during the mentorship term.

• Three entire group sessions
  • Orientation – January 23rd
  • Mid-way – March 28th
  • Wrap-Up – May 23rd

• Encouraged to complete evaluation and provide feedback to mentor/peer coach
SP ‘17 Program Participant Demographics

Total Number of Participants = 38
Panelists Reflection Questions

• Why did you decide to participate in the WIT Spring 2017 mentoring program?
Feedback about the pairing process

The mentor that was selected for me was fantastic. A great matching. It was nice to get a perspective of someone outside of my department who knows campus, knows IT, and has great insight.

“I think the pairing process worked wonders. I'm not entirely sure how I got so lucky, but we had so much in common.”

I felt I was matched very well with my mentor as their professional goals and outlook have a strong overlap with mine.
Table Exercise: Who Am I?

My name is __________

My favorite way to spend my free time is __________

One thing about me that is important for people to know is __________

Some of my strengths are __________
Benefits of the mentoring/peer coaching relationship

Getting feedback on career goals, ideas/issues for growth in the near future was a great help and an affirmation of my thinking. A big help was having someone who has a lot of experience on campus/in the University giving actionable feedback on multiple issues.

Mentoring made me more purposeful about my own actions.

One of the biggest benefits is the opportunity to network with someone whom I had no interaction with previously, in a different sphere of campus IT.
Panelists Reflection Questions

• What have you learned about yourself during the semester from your mentoring/coaching relationship?
A Mentoring Moment
Reflection Time

• Write down a mentoring experience in your past. It should be one in which a person singled you out for positive attention. Attention that moved you forward in your life, toward your goals, or even changed your life’s direction.
Panelists Reflection Questions

• From what you learned this past semester, what advice would you give to those interested in participating in a mentoring/peer coaching program?
More Information about WIT

• For more information about Women in Technology visit our website: http://wit.illinois.edu/

Questions