

Henry Ford once said, "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses." This statement implies people had not thought beyond what they had known. Imagine where society would be if Mr. Ford had merely focused on faster horses. As an advisor, I assist students with transformational experiences that will allow the student to begin the transition from the concept of "faster horses" (e.g., classes=degree=career) to innovation (e.g., How can my degree prepare me for a good career and personal life?). It is my passion to help students successfully navigate their academic career. I strive to provide support and guidance for all of my students and to set and achieve their goals in order to become fully educated persons. In my opinion, this process begins with the formation of a partnership between the advisor and advisee, the attainment of knowledge, and finally the progression to higher-level thinking.

The foundation of any successful partnership is rooted in mutual respect, unconditional positive regard, honesty, empathy, and trust. I promote this by maintaining a welcoming and nurturing environment where diversity is celebrated, students are recognized as individuals, and the candid conversation occurs. In each encounter, I demonstrate empathy. The college experience is not isolated to vacuum and oftentimes personal and work matters can influence a student's academic career. I advocate for my student by referring them to University and community resources and providing them with accurate and timely information. I teach my students the importance of problem solving, independent learning, and gathering necessary information so that they may gain the confidence to navigate the university, their degree program, and future career path. I challenge my students, cheer on their successes, and provide them with support during times of need. In order to promote a positive working relationships with students, it is important for them to feel that they matter when they meet with me.

It is also important to establish, however, that this partnership is a two-way street. I value our students and want to ensure that they have every opportunity to be successful. Part of helping a student to become fully educated requires the student to understand that they are in control of their educational career. This is their journey and their life. It is my job to help facilitate this process by showing them strategy and purpose.

I too must strive toward being an educated person. This requires familiarization with University policies and resources, assessing current literature on advising theories, and attending workshops and conferences to enhance my skillset. Networking with other advisors to determine better methodologies and practices not only helps with my professional development, but also highlights more resources for assisting students. I have an obligation to my students to continuously grow in order to provide the upmost knowledge and support.

As an advisor, I am in the unique position to have many one-on-one contacts with students, each for prolonged amounts of time. By taking the time to cultivate relationships, I find out individual student likes, passions and strengths. Based on this information, I encourage students to branch out and explore their areas of interest, as well as encourage areas that play to their strengths. I strive to break down the boundaries of "it can't be done", "it's too hard", or "I've never done this before." We work together to discover a student's goals. By working with students to find manageable steps to complete their goal, the objective is to increase their self-efficacy. Increased self-efficacy leads to them feeling more confident in their ability to succeed in their pursuit of larger goals, thereby expanding their possibilities. In turn, I consciously listen to my advisees, in order to learn and grow myself based on what my advisees

share about their educational experiences. This continuous cycle of give and take allows for better collaboration.

Taking classes is a stepping stone, but the knowledge acquired by taking these steps has lifelong impacts. For example, understanding and interacting with others who come from different background, doing the right thing, and giving back to the community are invaluable life lessons. This is what motivates, inspires, and energizes me to come to work every day in order to help students make the most out of this experience. I am dedicated to contributing to student growth and success. We are providing out student with the tools to make their own inventions.