



Pride Mentoring

Why was finding a mentor important:

As a young graduate I believed that having an industry mentor was essential to help me to develop and leverage my strengths to become an agent for positive change in our organisation, our communities and society as a whole.

What were you hoping to achieve?

By engaging in this program I hoped to develop belief in myself as well as be open to the possibilities to take control of my future. Additionally, I believed it was essential to make connections with others who understood and could advise me on the challenges of being a gay man in a heavily male dominated industry. Therefore through fostering feelings of wholeness across my life and career goals I believed I could gain a better understanding of myself and my industry.

Did you wonder why mentors offer to help students? What do you think they get out of it? What did your mentor get out of your partnership?

People who become mentors to younger and less experienced professionals are those who believe in the bettering of the future. They understand that by acknowledging the collective challenge of professional gay men in industry, men can support and mentor each other and their organisations to better support gay men to reach their full potential and make positive contributions.

How did you feel approaching your first discussion? Did you have any apprehensions? What were they? Were you concerned about anything?

As a young gay man I am still coming to an understanding of how to navigate myself through my professional life, I was initially apprehensive that I would be judged, even by my gay mentor who was gay.

What was the highlights/main learning's from your partnership:

My mentor undoubtedly supported and assisted me through the first challenging moments of my graduate experience such that I was able to gain an appreciation of my own abilities and qualities. Most importantly I learned that my sexuality is one part of me. Although an important part, it does not define me wholly nor do I have to disclose this information to anyone.

How has the mentor partnership assisted you after graduating?

My mentor partnership has been invaluable to me both personally and professionally. In the spatial industry, which is quite small, it has inspired and allowed me to authentically engender positive emotions that bring out the best in me. Likewise I feel empowered and mobilised towards achieving a greater purpose.

Would you like to add other comments?

Mentors are essential and I intend to be a mentor in the future. I hope to inspire trust and motivate others by setting an example to gay men and others in the spatial industry and at GHD (where I am currently employed as a Spatial Scientist/Consultant).