

# Development's Most Important Pairing

Engaging Alumni and Developing Students Through  
an Effective University-Wide Mentoring Program

Dan DeWeerd | Marquette University  
Tim Dinneen | Fordham University





The program seeks to engage participants in meaningful, one-one-one, year-long mentoring relationships which:

- Develop the **student as a whole person**, professionally, intellectually and personally
- Offer a fulfilling experience to the mentor and **develop their relationship as an alumnus** and partner in mission
- Are **supported by a program infrastructure and curriculum** of regular events and workshops, evaluations, and professional development resources
- The program hosts **350 - 450 participants** annually; students are **upperclassmen** and mentors are **3 years** out from graduation
- Applications are due in September, materials are reviewed and students attend pre-program trainings, participants are matched, and the program concludes in April
- Applicants are matched based on commonalities in their personal-professional profiles and represent the following professional categories **Social/Civil (32%)**, **Healthcare/Science (8%)**, **Business Services (13%)**, **Marketing/Media (15%)**, **Finance (25%)**, **Arts/Culture (4%)**, and **Information Technology (5%)**



## Mentoring 2.0

Four years ago, the implementation of the strategic plan *Cura* set out to create a program that (1) was centralized, collaborative, (2) adequately met student need, (3) provided an infrastructure and curriculum (4) provided continuous participant support (5) offered a fulfilling and engaging experience to the mentor. Mentoring Advisory Committee and Honors Track created.

## Recruitment

Marketing to alumni begins in July and happens across all channels including social media, features in FORDHAM magazine, the Alumni eNewsletter, with targeted outreach to returning mentors, interested mentors, high EVI-rated alumni, donors, etc. along with internal and staff referrals. For students, blast announcements of the application due date.





## Orientation

Mandatory pre-program orientation sessions facilitated by Career Services cover professional etiquette and other “basics” and include resume reviews. Once matched, in the **Mentor-Mentee Covenant**, pairs agree to the terms of the mentoring relationship, including the frequency and form of communication, and outline other expectations.

## Milestone Events

A series of substantive workshops and events “required” for participants provides an engagement baseline and allows for **networking** and **skills development**. Pairs are also encouraged to take part in regular career development projects, these include job shadowing, mock interviews, resume reviews, and networking receptions.

## Checkpoints and support

Brief, web-based surveys are completed together by pairs throughout the year. These allows participants to gauge progress and evaluate their relationship. Checkpoints also serve as an invitation for feedback. Regular communications include handbook updates, professional development articles, TED talks, and more.



# At a Glance | Program Schedule

<b>September 2 - 25</b>	<b>Prerequisite Mentee Orientation Sessions</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Application deadline for students</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Matching notifications distributed</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Milestone: Meet &amp; Greet</b>
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	McKinley Ballroom   Rose Hill Campus
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Milestone: Skills Development Workshop</b>
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	12th Floor Lounge   Lincoln Center Campus
<b>January 25</b>	<b>Checkpoint 1 Distributed</b>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>Milestone: Pregame Luncheon and Men's Basketball Game v. Saint Joseph's University</b>
Lunch at 1 p.m. Tip-off at 2 p.m.	Gymnasium   Rose Hill Campus
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Checkpoint 2 Distributed</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Milestone: Mentor Appreciation Dinner</b>
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Costantino Room   Law School Lincoln Center Campus
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Final Evaluation Survey Distributed</b>



# At a Glance | Program Application

List 2-3 clubs or activities with which you are currently involved.

What is your general dream career field, what is your dream occupation?

Upload your resume, provide the address of your LinkedIn profile.

Please include a brief personal statement (8-10 sentences) describing yourself, and what you hope to gain from this program.

Select 2 career-related projects on which you are most interested in working.

Do you have professional experience outside of your current career field? If so, please explain.

Fordham

Alumni Networks Graduate Schools Career Privileges Events and Learning Make a Gift

Alumni / Career / Mentor a Student / Application

## Mentor Application

Are you a student or alumnus/a?

- Student  
 Alumnus/a

\*

First Name

Last Name

Gender

Please Choose ▾

Birth Date (MM/DD/YY)

Preferred Email

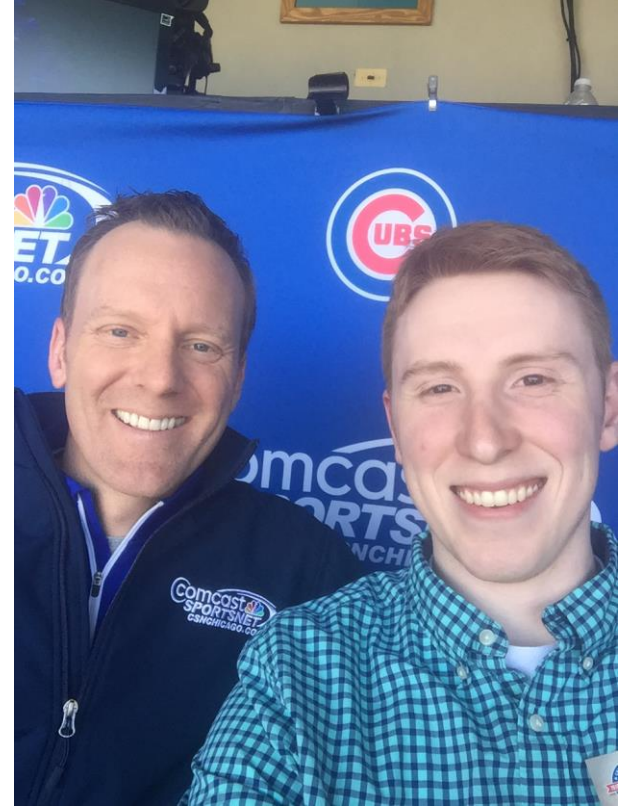
Email

Confirm

Primary Phone Number

# MUAA Mentor Program Goals

1. Meet increasing student demand to gain alumni career insights
2. Provide valuable alumni mentor experience with students and Marquette
3. Engage colleges, campus partners to support students and develop alumni mentor relationships
4. Create opportunity for University Advancement to strengthen relationships with alumni mentors and campus partners



**MARQUETTE**  
UNIVERSITY

**BE THE  
DIFFERENCE.**

# MUAA Mentor Program

“Trifecta”

Local and distance mentor program

2013-14 pilot matches: 30

- 1:1 match
- Program duration: academic year
- College Partners: Colleges of Arts and Sciences;  
Communications; Engineering; Health Sciences

Campus Partners: Honors Program, Athletics,  
Kohler Center for Entrepreneurship

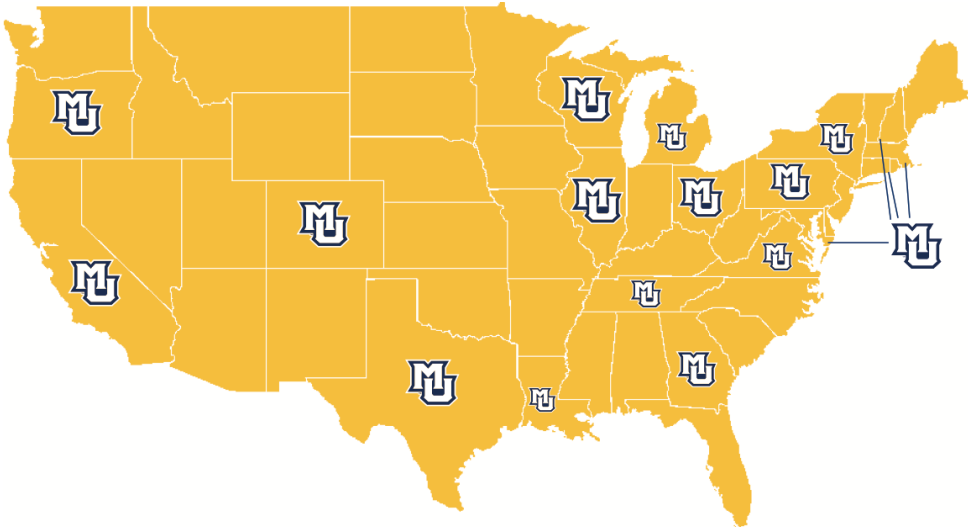
2015-16 Matches: 65

**Student mentee requirements: participant agreement  
form and program goals**





# MUAA Mentor Geographic and Company Representation



**BE THE DIFFERENCE.**

# Campus Partners: Faculty

## Integrated Leadership

- Program development
- Student recruitment
- Interviews, selection, matching
- Event attendance: kick off, finale, networking programs, mentor and mentee workshops
- Ongoing communication and support



# Faculty Insider's Perspective

High impact, limited time commitment

Keys to success

- Emphasize:
  - Benefits students of THEIR department
  - Involves former students (alumni mentors) of THEIR department
  - The local >> this is to help students in THEIR department
- Be clear about:
  - Time commitment (and what is optional), workload distribution
  - How this complements faculty member's mentoring



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

**BE THE  
DIFFERENCE.**



Staff on-hand to troubleshoot issues

Monthly newsletters (811% open rate)



"I really love the University. I always feel you need to give back and give not only monetarily. What's really going to help students is guidance. That's what's going to give them an edge so that they can make better, more intelligent decisions."

— Dr. Ray Longobardi, FCRH '86

JAA 2016  
MARQUETTE



"My involvement in the mentor program has really fueled my interest in getting more deeply involved with Marquette."

— Gerry Ahern, Jour '87