

2024





CHAMBER of COMMERCE
OF THE PALM BEACHES



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAMBER CHAIR

As the Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce Palm Beaches, I am writing to highlight the exceptional benefits awaiting you through our amazing new mentoring program. Mentoring has proven to be a cornerstone for the professional and business development of countless individuals, and we believe this program can make a significant impact on the success of your business as well. Our mentoring program is designed to provide a supportive and constructive environment where seasoned professionals collaborate with emerging leaders to foster growth, knowledge transfer, and skill enhancement. Here are some key advantages of participating in this exciting program:

Expert Guidance

Access to seasoned local mentors who bring a wealth of experience in a variety of industries. Their insights and guidance can help navigate challenges and identify opportunities for growth.

Networking Opportunities

The program facilitates valuable connections within our local business community. Through mentorship, you will have the chance to build a robust network, opening doors to potential partnerships, collaborations, and new business ventures.

Skill Development

Tailored mentorship plans are crafted to address your specific needs and goals. This personalized approach ensures that you receive guidance in areas crucial to your professional and business development, fostering skill enhancement and adaptability.

Enhanced Decision-Making

Benefit from the wisdom of mentors who have faced similar challenges. Their perspectives can contribute to better-informed decision-making, helping you avoid pitfalls and capitalize on opportunities.

Increased Confidence

Interacting with a mentor can boost your confidence and self-esteem. The encouragement and support you receive can empower you to take calculated risks and push beyond your comfort zone.

Long-Term Relationships

Many mentorship connections evolve into long-term professional relationships. The bond formed during the mentoring process often extends beyond the initial engagement, creating a lasting support system for your career or business.

Joining our mentoring program is an investment in your professional growth and the prosperity of your business. We have witnessed firsthand the positive impact it has had on individuals and organizations within our chamber, and we are confident that you will find tremendous value in this experience.

To enroll in our mentoring program or to learn more about the details, please contact Rachel Quismundo at rquismundo@palmbeaches.org. We are here to assist you every step of the way. Mentoring programs benefit both mentors and mentees and are very powerful in building connections beyond what is outlined above. I myself have lifelong friendships that I have forged through these types of programs and I am so very excited to support this in our own Chamber.

Thank you for considering this unique opportunity for growth, and we look forward to welcoming you to this year's program.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lea



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THE EXECUTIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Executive Mentorship Program was proposed by our 2019 Chamber Chair Evelyn Hopkins. Her commitment to mentorship during her year as Chair has helped create and fuel this program. Now, in 2024, it's time to bring back the program, and refocus our goals on building relationships and growing the business community in Palm Beach County.

The Executive Mentorship Program will be part of YPOP's membership and will connect young professionals with accomplished executives from a broad array of commercial, non-profit, and governmental backgrounds.

As a mentor, you will help shape the future of a young professional by sharing your knowledge and providing a firsthand glimpse of life and work in Palm Beach County. As a mentee, you will gain insight and guidance into potential career paths, as well as build your business community beyond your circle.

At the end of the program mentors and mentees will find that the learning is mutual, and hopefully have a lasting relationship, that supports the mentee's personal and professional development. To establish a successful relationship, mentors and mentees need to be:

- Willing to be responsible for their own growth and development.
- Receptive to feedback and coaching.
- Self-aware.
- Positive.
- Goal-oriented.
- Open and honest with each other.

You'll be paired up using the information provided on the application. Please be as specific as possible. Keep an open mind as you may not get a mentor/mentee that is in the same field as you, but that may be what is best in the end.

WHAT IS MENTORING?

History gives many examples of the value of mentoring. The most famous instance was chronicled by Homer in The Odyssey. Homer tells us that around 1200 BC, the adventurer Odysseus prepared to leave for the siege of Troy. Before sailing, he appointed a guardian to his household. For the next 10 years, this guardian acted faithfully as a teacher, advisor, friend and surrogate father to Telemachus, son of Odysseus. The Mythical Guardian's name was Mentor.

Homer's story reflects one of the oldest attempts by society to facilitate mentoring. The Greeks based these relationships on a basic principle of human survival: People learn skills, culture, and values directly from people whom they look up to or admire.



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TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL MENTOR/MENTEE RELATIONSHIPS

1

DEFINE EXPECTATIONS

Be clear and honest about what you want to get out of the program. Establish realistic goals for the relationship and review them throughout the program. Set up a system to measure achievement and manage expectations.

4

BE RELIABLE & CONSISTENT

Mentoring takes time and implies sacrifices for both the mentee and mentor. Be respectful of each other's time. The more consistent you are, the more you can be trusted.

2

KEEP COMMUNICATION OPEN

Consistent communication is one of the most important building blocks for a successful mentor/mentee relationship. Establish communication methods and frequency of contact from the beginning. Encourage open communication, and act as resources for each other.

5

MAINTAIN RESPECT & EXPRESS GRATITUDE

Uphold core relationship values including privacy, confidentiality, honesty, and integrity. Listen to the feedback provided. Be kind and considerate. Be supportive and recognize the progress made to achieve your goals.

3

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Commit to actively meeting with your mentor/mentee at least six times throughout this program. Approach your conversations with ideas/topics you would like to discuss and be prepared to learn from one another. Share knowledge, personal experiences and advice. Offer suggestions and feedback and encourage each other to explore new ways of thinking and strategizing.





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MANDATORY ACTIVITIES

WELCOME/PAIRING EVENT

March 14, 2024

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: **Meraki Juice Kitchen**
328 Fern Street,
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

CLOSING RECEPTION

September 12, 2024

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: TBD

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

MEET OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Attend a Chamber breakfast to network with other professionals to hear different perspectives on business in the region.

COMPANY TOUR

Each gives a tour of their company, to learn about his or her organizational culture and work environment.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Share philanthropic passions, and volunteer together.

CASUAL MEETUPS

Each selects their favorite restaurant, or coffee shop, and meet to discuss future goals, and learn about each other on a personal level. Meet via Zoom to catch up. Invite them to lunch with a colleague!

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Discuss a project or issue, offer perspective based on professional experiences.



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FAQ

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

The program begins March 14 and concludes September 12. Mentors and mentees commit to engaging with their partner 2-3 hours per month and must attend the two mandatory events hosted by the Chamber. There will be monthly check-ins at the end of each month, to ensure that both parties continue to be engaged.

IS THERE A COST?

There is no cost to participate in the program.

HOW ARE MATCHES DETERMINED?

The Executive Mentorship Committee reviews the applications and determines the matches based on the information shared. We encourage you to be specific and clear in your response, while also keeping an open mind to mentoring/being mentored by someone who may be outside your requested industry.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

This program is open to members of the Young Professionals of the Palm Beaches who are seeking to advance their careers. Mentors are experienced professionals from our Trustee and Board of Directors willing to share their experiences and help others grow personally and professionally.

All applications must be submitted to Rachel Quismundo
at rquismundo@palmbeaches.org by February 23, 2024.



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WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? *Mentor / Mentee*

- Opportunity to Develop New Skills & Knowledge
- Exposure to New Ideas and Ways of Thinking
- Guidance on Professional Development and Advancement
- Advice on Developing Strengths and Overcoming Weaknesses
- Build Additional Professional Relationships
- Opportunity to Give Back and Help Someone
- Enhance Leadership/Management Skills
- Insight and Valuable Advice
- A Trusted Advisor/Sounding Board



Mentoring opens doors and provides a path to success for a young person. Just a small amount of your time can be a life-changing experience for someone who is starting out.

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches is offering an exclusive opportunity for our established leadership to mentor young professionals who seek your guidance, support and expertise.

Make a difference by joining our signature program to mentor a local, young person. I'm excited to be part of this initiative and hope you will consider participating with me.

Sarah Alsofrom, GL Homes



I'm thrilled that YPOP members will have the opportunity to connect and be mentored through the Executive Mentoring Program with the Chamber. Palm Beach County is a diverse and robust community and with a coordinated mentoring program, we can achieve more together. Mentoring is critical in career development and is an investment in growing our community. Everyone benefits in mentoring. It is a rewarding experience for mentees and mentors.

Julia Murphy, Compass Community Center



For more information on the Executive Mentorship Program, contact
Rachel Quismundo, Special Events Coordinator, at rquismundo@palmbeaches.org

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches | (561) 833-3711 | www.palmbeaches.org