Mentoring: A relationship between an experienced "mentor" and a less experienced "mentee".

Career mentoring helps mentees learn and develop the skills to be successful in a career first hand from mentors with the experience and willingness to share their knowledge.

NDI has developed two on-line mentoring systems that allow alumni to volunteer as mentors to help other alumni or to students.   One performs as a module within the NDI Alumni Online Directory, the other as a multi-featured, stand-alone product.

NDI Alumni Directory: Mentor Module

This optional module, bundled with the NDI Alumni Directory, allows alumni to volunteer as mentors. An alum wishing to volunteer as a mentor simply completes a career profile within the directory and indicates those areas of expertise where they are willing to help. By doing so, they join a separate, searchable database available to all alumni within the general directory.

The profile contains personal, career and contact information as well as drop down lists specifying their areas of interest, such as:

- Industry
- Profession
- University
- Degree
- Location

Potential mentees can then search the list of mentors using these lists and view mentor profiles to find those best able to suit their needs.

There are many advantages of an online mentor program including the fact that mentor profiles are compiled and updated by the volunteers. The database is easily searched by members and results are immediate without the cost of engaging a staff member to search databases, make judgments and pass on information.

With the proper marketing focus this optional Mentor module has proven to be an invaluable tool for many schools using the NDI Alumni Directory.

Cost: When bundled with the NDI Alumni Directory the cost of this module, depending on users, is somewhere between $25.00 and $55.00 per month.

NDI Advanced Mentoring (external to the Alumni Directory)

This product runs independently of the NDI Alumni Directory, and is a custom-designed program exclusive to a client and is marketed and operated as a separate function.

This program supports three different levels of mentoring:

- Alumni to Alumni
- Young Alumni to graduating Students
- Special Request Mentors (mentors not displayed on-line, but available to the program manager)

A single unduplicated record is used for each person that can be enabled with any of the various profiles. Many participants have multiple profiles (e.g. a Young Alumni Mentor may also be an Alumni (mentor) to Alumni (mentee).

Participants register on-line, but cannot access the system until approved by the program manager. Once logged in, a participant can edit their own info, and can search for others. Profiles are updated in real-time, and updated information is forwarded to the program manager for review. This information can possibly be used to update the client's main database (i.e. Raiser's Edge.)

Mentor profiles are much more extensive than in the NDI Alumni Directory Mentor Module. Any participant is able to easily email a copy of their profile to others.

The Program Manager can broadcast to all participants, or select subgroups on any of the criteria available. Lists and counts are easily obtained, providing the manger with total information about the number and type of participants.

All searches are recorded, as are the number of resultant hits - if the manager notices that specific industries are of interest, but there are few mentors available, then the manager can work to increase the number of mentors in those areas.

The manager has full editing capabilities, and can edit, delete or suspend participants as required.

Cost: In terms of cost, the system is custom designed for each client. Cost of customization is estimated between $1500 and $3000. This would include setting the system up and customer training. Ongoing maintenance and hosting fees are estimated at about $150/month depending on users. This ongoing fee covers unlimited usage, all training, unlimited support, full warranty, etc.

For a demonstration or further information please contact Dale Carter at:

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