

# QUALITIES OF SUCCESSFUL MENTORS

## **Personal commitment to be involved with another person for an extended period of time.**

Mentors have a genuine desire to be part of another person's life. They must be invested in the relationship over the long haul, to be there long enough to make a difference

## **Respect for individuals, their abilities and their responsibility to make their own choices.**

Mentors cannot come with the attitude that their own ways are the only ways, and that their mentees need to be "rescued". Mentors who convey a sense of respect in the relationship will win the trust of their mentees, and the privilege of being their advisors.

## **Ability to listen and accept different points of view.**

Most youth can find someone who will give advice or express opinions. It is much harder to find someone who will suspend judgment and really listen. Mentors often help by simply listening, asking thoughtful questions, and giving the mentee the opportunity to explore their own thoughts with a minimum of a interference. A mentor is an accessible resource and sounding board. When a mentee feels accepted, he is more likely to ask for and respond to suggestions.

## **Ability to empathize with another person's struggles.**

Good mentors can "feel with" the mentee without feeling pity "for" them.

Mentors can encourage a mentee's efforts to overcome and rise above his problems.

## **Ability to see solutions and opportunities, as well as barriers.**

Good mentors balance a realistic respect for the real problems faced by their mentees with optimism about seeking realistic solutions. Mentors are able to look at issues and point out sensible alternatives. They can applaud what is well done, they can suggest corrections, and they can highlight personal strengths of the mentee, which will aid them in their struggles.

## **Flexibility and openness.**

Good mentors realize that relationships take time to develop and that communication is a two-way street. They are willing to take time to get to know their mentees, and to learn what is important to their mentees.

## **Educate.**

Good mentors give insights about keeping on task and setting priorities. They instruct by example.

*~General Colin Powell*



**Safety Net Mentor Program**

1106 N. 1200 West  
Orem, UT 84057

[www.safetynetmentor.org](http://www.safetynetmentor.org)

801-224-7842

Karla Sedillo, Director