



WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK

The Women's Democracy Network Mentorship Program

Have you stopped to think about how caring individuals have made a difference in your life, or how you could make a difference in someone else's life? Have you wondered how successful women leaders were able to rise to the top? Would you like to learn from the experience of other women in your profession?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should consider joining the Women's Democracy Network (WDN) Mentorship Program. The WDN Mentorship Program connects women from around the world to learn from one another through a structured professional relationship.

How does the WDN Mentorship Program work? We are seeking experienced women professionals to be mentors, and young professional women to pair with them. The mentor benefits from seeing her mentoring partner reap the rewards from her guidance and advice. The mentoring partner learns from her mentor's experiences, and how to apply that experience to her own situation. Mentoring requires a commitment, a commitment to share and grow and learn from each other. The mentoring relationship can be life changing for both members of a mentoring team.

You can begin the process by filling out a questionnaire that reviews your goals and availability for the program. For example, are you interested in working with someone in your locality, or would you be open to joining a mentorship with a woman from a different country? Would you like to work with someone one-on-one, or would you be willing to be part of a group mentoring team?

WDN will review each questionnaire and set up a match. WDN asks that each mentorship team complete a 'Mentorship Program Agreement' that defines the level of commitment the mentoring team can make to the relationship. WDN asks for a minimum of a one-year commitment and that a minimum of four contacts be made each year between mentoring partners. Each team will be required to establish specific goals and benchmarks, which will serve as guideposts for each 'meeting'.

Contact between mentoring teams can be made in person, over the Internet, via the WDN website, or by telephone, or video conference. Mentor teams will be responsible for the cost of the communication, whether telephone, email or face-to-face meetings. But remember, how you 'meet' is not as important as sharing experiences, ideas, dreams and goals with one another.

Sign up for the WDN Mentorship Program today and see how you can change someone's life!

For additional information on the WDN Mentorship Program, please contact Gretchen Birkle at gbirkle@iri.org, or 202-572-1531.