



What is one of the most important decisions we may make in our life? ***To have a mentor! And then to be a mentor!***

I learned the importance of having a mentor the hard way — by not having one until I was about 40 years old. I worked very hard and struggled on my own to get through college, graduate, choose my career, evaluate job options and make key life decisions — learning from trial and error.

Meanwhile, I watched others accelerate in their careers, networking, relationships, investments and life in general. The common difference was they had mentors in their lives to leverage other's experiences and networks. They were working smarter, not harder. Once I took the active decision to engage with mentors my life took a different trajectory personally and professionally and several breakthroughs started to happen.

Since then I have also learned an even greater importance of being a mentor. The feeling we get when we give back personally and make a difference in other's lives is extraordinary. I've been blessed to mentor several people. Our focused time together has been life-changing for them — and for me! — in their careers, families and relationships. They create better opportunities for themselves and make better decisions. Being a mentor has been one of the most rewarding and joyful activities in my life. It has provided me a very pure sense of purpose and meaning.

For these reasons, I am working with the UA Alumni Association to create the Wildcat Mentor Society. This program is truly differentiating for the University of Arizona, our students and alumni. The Wildcat Mentor Society provides a structured, supported program to connect small groups of mentees with an accomplished Wildcat mentor. Collaborative and confidential cohorts are designed for reciprocal learning and personal growth. We have learned from experience and best practices that a trusting, small-group experience is most powerful for personal and professional breakthroughs. The Wildcat Mentor Society is designed with this in mind to create a one-of-a-kind, game-changing program tackling issues that matter most to people.

For just two hours a month your engagement in the Wildcat Mentor Society will change lives. Sign up now! It will be one of the best decisions and experiences in your life.

Bear Down and Go 'Cats!

Andy Harris, '87