Cultivating the Relationship: Giving (and Receiving) Feedback

Mentees want to receive honest, candid feedback from their mentor. Equally important is the feedback mentees can offer to mentors. Engaging in reciprocal and on-going feedback is a vital component of the partnership.

Effective feedback:

- Is offered in a timely manner
- Focuses on specific behaviors
- Acknowledges outside factors that may contribute
- Emphasizes actions, solutions or strategies

Effective Feedback from Mentee:

- Whether the advice or guidance you offered was beneficial and solved an issue
- Whether the mentor communication style and/or actions facilitate a positive mentoring experience
- Whether the mentor communication style and/or actions create challenges to a positive mentoring experience

Effective Feedback to Mentee:

- Mentee strengths and assets
- Areas for growth, development and enhancement
- Harmful behaviors or attitudes
- Observations on how your mentee may be perceived by others