

Information for Alumni & Friends – Executive Mentor Program

What is the Executive Mentor Program?

Established in 2011, the Executive Mentor Program formally pairs students and young alumni of the K-State College of Business with seasoned business professionals for career-related mentoring. Mentors and mentees communicate regularly and establish goals for the mentorship that support the mentee's career goals. Mentors provide mentees with valuable advice, serve as a sounding board, share significant experiences, and provide constructive feedback. Each mentee has the opportunity to select their own mentor (with the approval of that mentor, of course) based on the information the mentor shares on their program profile.

The Executive Mentor Program is housed within WildcatLink, a web-based mentoring and networking platform that creates a virtual space for students, faculty & staff, and alumni & friends of K-State to connect with each other based on mutual career-related interests and help topics. Each user chooses their level of engagement and availability for networking and/or mentoring.

What are the requirements to join?

Any alumni or friend of K-State who is willing to share their time and experience with students or other alumni may join WildcatLink. To become an Executive Mentor, one must have at least seven (7) years of professional business experience and be willing to commit to regular (~monthly) communication and support of their mentee.

Why should I get involved?

Perhaps you had a great mentor when you were in college, or thinking back on it, wish you would have. Joining the Executive Mentor Program is an excellent opportunity to provide that type of assistance and advantage to a young person nervous about starting their career. You will have the opportunity to shape young professionals into the type of employees and colleagues with whom you wish to work all while increasing awareness of your company and profession at K-State.

What is the time commitment?

Within the WildcatLink site, you will choose the parameters for any networking-related communication, such as how many times per month someone may reach out to you (if at all) and if you wish to make your profile visible.

We encourage mentors and mentees in the Executive Mentor Program to meet with each other at least once per month (in-person meeting, phone, or video chat). At the start of the mentorship, each pair determines the specific expectations to which they will hold themselves accountable. (Note: The mentee is responsible for initiating the mentorship and for driving communication.)

I do not live in or near Manhattan. Is this a problem?

The vast majority (90%) of alumni involved in WildcatLink and the Executive Mentor Program live outside of Manhattan. We have individuals located internationally, on both U.S. coasts, and everywhere in between. While this often means fewer in-person meetings, technology makes it possible to build a meaningful relationship at a distance. Students may also apply for travel money to take a trip to visit their long distance Executive Mentor.

How do I get started?

If you are interested in joining WildcatLink (networking) and the Executive Mentor Program (formal mentoring), go to the following site: <http://ksu.peoplegrove.com>

Do you want more information before you commit? Contact Emily Brueseke at (785)532-3982 or ementor@k-state.edu with questions. I would be more than happy to speak with you in-person to discuss the program in more detail.