Twelve Strategies for Effective Mentoring

1. Positive Attitude: Encourage the student to approach life and goals with enthusiasm and to be accepting of self and others.

2. Valuing: Encourage the student to examine beliefs and ideals in an effort to establish personal values and goals.

3. Open-Mindedness: Encourage the student to keep an open mind to ideas.

4. Interrelations: Make the interactions between mentor and student situations of sharing, caring, and empathizing.

5. Creative Problem-Solving: Encourage the student to use a creative problem-solving process.

6. Effective Communication: Encourage the student to be an attentive listener and an assertive questioner.

7. Discovery: Encourage the student to be an independent thinker.

8. Strengths and Uniqueness: Encourage the student to recognize individual strengths and uniqueness and to build on them.

9. Confidence: Assist the student in developing self-confidence.

10. Awareness: Stress that an individual be aware of the environment, be intuitive, be problem sensitive, and be ready to make the most of opportunities.

11. Risk-Taking: Encourage the student to be a risk-taker and to be an active participant, not a spectator.

12. Flexibility: Share with a student the importance of being flexible and adaptable in attitudes and action, looking for alternatives, and seeing situations/persons from different perspectives.