

ENGR 196B
Survival and Success Skills for Freshmen Engineers
Spring 2004
University of Arizona

Now that we have talked about what a mentor can do for you in all aspects of your development, take a minute to answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the characteristics you would look for in a mentor?
- 2) What are the benefits of being mentored?
- 3) What can you gain by mentoring someone else?
- 4) Do you already have a mentor?
- 5) How can you most effectively use a mentor?
- 6) What problems can occur during mentoring?

Many of the activities you've done this semester have been designed to help you explore some of the many opportunities that will come your way over the next few years. By having discussed all of these issues, we've hopefully given you a "heads-up" on things to look for and things to look out for.

While you may believe that you will be able to stop learning and developing when you graduate from college, that just isn't true. People often worked for the same company their entire careers several decades ago. Now, people switch companies and jobs about once every 5 years or so. This means that must keep learning and keep developing as you progress through your career. This will also make you highly marketable if your particular sector of an industry encounters tough times and you find yourself looking for another job.

Describe several ways of staying current in your field. How will you keep up with new developments so that you can talk knowledgeably about them?

What activities do you think companies have to help you keep on top of new knowledge?

I hope you've found this class to be useful to you now in your career. I also hope that you'll look back every once in a while to see what we've talked about to see if it's still useful or has become useful when you need to make decisions. If you found that something was particularly useful during this course, please let me know so that I can work on making those materials even stronger. If there are topics you find that you wished we had covered but didn't, please let me know that as well so I can incorporate them into the course next year.

Good luck and have fun!