The Basics

Leaders of the chapter felt that they could do more to support underclassmen pursuing degree in the School of Education. As students continue through the teacher education program it can become increasingly stressful and confusing to navigate classes, exams and requirements. In an effort to provide some counsel for these students, the chapter initiated a mentorship program.

Getting Started

Students begin the teacher preparation as sophomores with their Introduction to Teaching course. This mentoring program pairs a member of the Kappa Delta Pi chapter with each student who is currently in the introductory course. It is structured in a way that provides every student in the course a mentor, but also gives them the freedom to not feel compelled to have a mentor. If students don’t feel like they need a mentor now, they know that they have a resource should they need one in the future. It is important not to force this relationship on any of the students, but the chapter wanted them to feel supported and know that they have a go-to person if they ever had questions.

The Impact

The mentoring partnerships have been incredibly productive. In one case, the pair met at a coffee shop and talked for an hour and a half about teaching, the school’s program, the licensure requirements, student’s concerns, and more. The mentor was able to answer questions and ease much of this student’s stress about her future.

The mentors start by setting up a relaxed face-to-face meeting at a local coffee shop just to introduce themselves to their mentees and get to know them a bit. After that initial meeting, they can meet as much or as little as they see fit.
Make This Event Your Own

- Host a mentor mixer party, where the mentor introduces the mentee to other chapter members.
- Instead of a one-on-one mentorship, have a mentor meet with a small group of students.
- Involve graduate students in mentoring, be sure to offer similar mentoring to transfer students who may not be in introductory courses.

Fast Facts

18 Volunteer mentors
34 Student mentees

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Chapter Services Staff at KDP Headquarters for help as you plan your program.