

# Rebecca DiClemente's *Philosophy of Mentoring*

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"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."  
~ Aristotle ~

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Learning occurs when a student puts a conscious effort into imbibing, processing, and committing *knowledge* to memory. There are too many facets of knowledge to cover each nuance, so I call all information, whether learned behaviors, facts, or strategies, *knowledge*. I believe that people learn something new every day, as we are active-thinking beings. Learning can occur *anywhere* - in a classroom, at a job, on a fishing trip, or even at a gas station. Knowledge is all around us, petitioning for our attention, selection, retention, and interpretation. We, as students, choose to make our own interpretation, which creates our own perceptions, which creates our own reality. *That* is the beauty of learning! It is a unique journey for each individual. Finding the best method of learning for ourselves and employing it is the key to learning the most knowledge we possibly can!

A great mentor is a leader, a teacher, and a role model combined into one. (S)he must be considerate, compassionate, and concerned about the mentoree. (S)he needs to know the role that (s)he plays for the mentoree, and must play that part consistently. A great mentor also presents a varied abundance of knowledge to the mentoree, in the style that is most effective for the mentoree.

A great mentoree seeks knowledge from the mentor, and respects the knowledge that is presented, although they may not accept it. They must pay close attention so that they can learn most effectively, and reciprocate the relationship presented by the mentor. Basically, they are responsible for being respectful, active thinkers and constructing their own knowledge database.

Overall, I hope to inspire each of my mentorees in some way throughout our mentorship. Making a positive impact is very important to me. I believe that I have a lot to offer, whether it is support, new ideas, or direction. I will use thoughts and feedback from mentorees in order to constantly evolve and improve as a mentor. I aim to be the best person that I can, so the same is true for the part of me that is a mentor.