

Rotary Club of Milwaukee Scholarship Program

Mentor Learning Sessions

The Scholarship Committee plans quarterly learning session for mentors. Below, you'll find a list of past sessions. To request the recording for any of these past sessions, [click here](#).

Engaging with Your Scholar

August 21, 2025

This session was devoted to best practices around engaging with your mentee. Mentors shared ideas and experiences and asked questions of their fellow mentors.

Helping Scholars with Decision Making

Margaret Crawford, Leadership consultant and long-time mentor

May 21, 2025

When someone close to us is faced with a difficult decision, it's a struggle not to rush in with an opinion or solution. For scholars faced with a lot of choices in college, it's important they learn how to work through the decision-making process to confidently and independently make choices.

In this session, Margaret Crawford, discussed how to help scholars with decision making by listening and asking questions. As a mentor, you can guide your scholar through the process of understanding the choice to be made, weighing the alternatives, and ultimately making a decision they feel good about.

Supporting First Gen College Students

Yee Leng Yang, Coach with the Promise Program, Mount Mary College

February 20, 2025

Yee Leng Yang and the Promise Program provide academic, career and financial support to 140 first-generation and limited-income college students each year. In this session, Yee discussed the challenges facing first generation college students and how to support students as they find community, navigate financial burdens, face academic challenges and more.

Mentoring Young People with a Sensitivity for Trauma

Andréa Michel, Developmental Psychologist and Trauma-Sensitive Leadership Consultant

November 14, 2024

Our adverse childhood experiences play a large role in our behavior and relationships as adults. In this session Andréa Michel, a Developmental Psychologist and Trauma-Sensitive Leadership Consultant, helped us to gain an awareness of the weight that past traumas carry and how a scholar's trauma could be impacting the way they interact with us and approach situations as they grow into adulthood.

Financial Aid

Presented by the Selection Subcommittee

August 21, 2024

In this session we looked at Financial Aid with members of the Rotary Scholarship Selection Subcommittee. Each year Rotary Scholars receive a financial aid package that includes funding from federal, state, private and school-based sources. This session included a high-level overview of the types of aid our Selection Team sees when interviewing incoming college students, what you might see on your scholars' financial aid award letters and a few suggestions on how to have a conversation with your scholar about paying for college.

GPA Management and Protection

Dr. Kip Kussman, Dean of Students at MSOE

May 9, 2024

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In this session Kip Kussman, Dean of Students at MSOE, spoke about how the GPA acts as an indicator and tool, with different importance for each student, proactive ways for students to manage and protect their GPA and how mentors can guide them.

The Mentor/Mentee Relationship: Building Trust and Working Through Challenges

Presented by Rotary Mentors

February 28, 2024

In this session we heard from experienced mentors and had some small group time with other mentors. Let's share how things are going and sort through the challenges.

Generational Differences

Mentor Greater Milwaukee

November 17, 2023

In this session, presented by Mentor Greater Milwaukee, we looked at mentoring and the impact that generational differences can have on the relationship.

Sabotage

Seandra Mitchell, Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Equality at MSOE

August 16, 2023

Sabotage is defined as "an act or process tending to hamper or hurt". For some students, self-sabotage, or sabotage from family and friends, can keep them from completing their college journey or realizing their full potential. In this session, Seandra Mitchell shared the types of sabotage students may encounter, how to recognize it and what resources are available.

The Money Talk

Tim Hunter, President Wolf Star Technologies, Scholarship Committee Member and Mentor

May 11, 2023

As students prepare to graduate there is more to consider about this new stage of life than lining up a job. In this session, Tim Hunter shared his "Money Talk" with us. Tim has shared this talk with his children, their friends and his mentees and now he will share with us what college graduates should know about credit cards, budgets, retirement accounts and more. Even if your scholar isn't graduating this spring, plan to take part in this Learning Session so that you are prepared to talk about these topics

Mental Health on College Campuses

Dr. Kip Kussman, Dean of Students at MSOE

February 15, 2023

Since COVID, rates of mental health issues among young people have increased dramatically. One study suggests that 1 in 3 college students experience significant anxiety and depression. During this session, we were joined by Dr. Kip Kussman the Dean of Students at MSOE. In addition to working with students at MSOE, Dr. Kussman has a background in Counseling Psychology, with an emphasis on emerging adulthood. Dr. Kussman discussed mental health trends on college campuses, the experiences that are specific to emerging adults and the role culture may play. The group also discussed how to approach the subject with scholars and help them access the support they or their families may need.

Money Discussion

8/20/2025

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Brenda Campbell, President and CEO of SecureFutures, Scholarship Committee Member and Mentor
November 9, 2022

Talking about money is hard. Most of our Scholars will need assistance with managing their finances at some point during their time in college and you as their mentor can be a trusted resource. Brenda Campbell, the President and CEO of SecureFutures will share her financial literacy knowledge and some resources that she has used with her own scholar to have budgeting and financial conversations.

Cultural Humility in Mentoring, Part 2

Mentor Greater Milwaukee

August 10, 2022

During these sessions we looked at the importance of understanding micro-aggressions, anti-bias, equity and a dignity framework in mentoring. We discussed the way culture impacts everything, from communication to understanding one another.

Cultural Humility in Mentoring, Part 1

Mentor Greater Milwaukee

May 4, 2022

During these sessions we looked at the importance of understanding micro-aggressions, anti-bias, equity and a dignity framework in mentoring. We discussed the way culture impacts everything, from communication to understanding one another.

Mentoring from a Youth Centered Approach

Mentor Greater Milwaukee

February 9, 2022

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee's mission is to increase mentoring relationships in Milwaukee by building the capacity of existing mentoring organizations, providing resources so that organizations can make an impact. In this session we discussed mentoring from a youth centered approach, strategies to expand your relationship with your mentee and ways to encourage their active participation.

What Do Papercuts Have to Do with Scholar Success?

Dr. Christine Pharr, President of Mount Mary University

November 17, 2021

Fellow Rotarian and mentor, Dr. Christine Pharr, President of Mount Mary University discussed the "paper cuts" you may hear about from your mentees and how to access resources for your scholar.

Next Level Mentoring: Developing a mentoring mindset with a focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion + Belonging

Rotarian and Mentor Jim Milner MBA, BCLC, MCC

August 18, 2021

This session focused on DEI + Belonging with fellow Rotarian and Mentor Jim Milner MBA, BCLC, MCC. The session included ample time for small-group discussion and an opportunity to take your mentoring relationship to the next level.

Building a Solid Relationship and Trust with Your Scholar

Margaret Crawford, Owner/Principal Consultant, M. Crawford and Associates Consulting

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May 26, 2021

We explored this topic through small group discussion on the article "[The Three Best Ways to Build Trust for Mentors](#)" from the Art of Mentoring, which repurposes some familiar principles for mentors. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from other mentors, invest in your relationship with your scholar, and inform other personal and professional relationships in your life as well.

Connecting with Scholars from Different Backgrounds

Ginny Finn, Chief Development Officer, YWCA

February 24, 2021

At the first Mentor Learning Session, we invited mentors to invest in their mentor relationship with a timely conversation on Connecting with Scholars from Different Backgrounds through cultural competence and humility.