

# MEANINGFUL MENTORSHIP

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# Introductions



Bruce Berger



Johnita Daniel



Rebecca Keefer



Elena Oertel



Caroline Evans

*The goal of the GPA Mentor Program is to successfully build teams of emerging professionals, mid-career planners, and mentors for guidance and support while offering mentors the opportunity to strengthen ties with future leaders of the planning profession and APA.*





Enrich GPA services



Retain planners,  
especially emerging  
professionals



Professional  
development, career  
advice, and networking



Leadership development  
for industry and GPA

# GPA Mentor Program

# Program Overview



Typically runs from January to June, with an event each month



Monthly events



Form mentoring groups of Senior-, mid- and early-career planners



Groups also meet between events and stay in touch long after

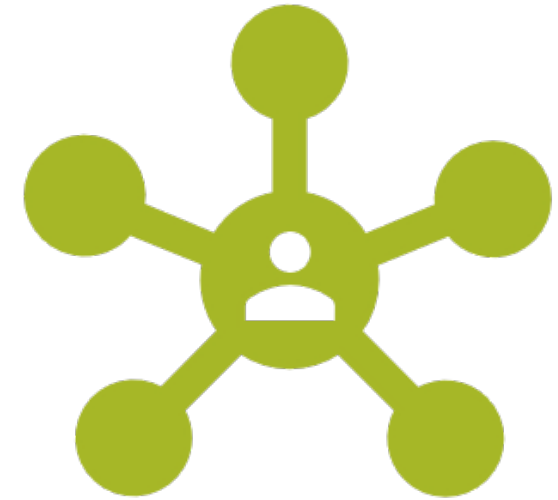


# **DISCUSSION WITH MENTOR PANEL**

- How has mentorship been impactful for you and your career?



- Please share an example of how you have utilized the relationships you've formed in the mentor program to improve and grow your career.





- What advice would you give to someone who is looking for mentorship and isn't sure where to start?



- How have you planned your career path? Has your mentoring relationship been helpful in setting goals and direction?



- Every year we get questions for the senior mentor panel about how to develop as a leader. What advice would you give to the audience on leadership development?



- Another common question is about critical skills and knowledge for planners. What do you think are some must-have skills that planners can seek to develop over their careers?



- What have you found to be the best method for empowering your employees or co-workers to make decisions on their own? How have you “given the work back” when they bring you a problem?



- Can you share insights on effective strategies for balancing professional commitments, such as project management and community engagement, in a demanding planning career?



- What are some of the professional/personal development courses, organizations, education, or memberships that you feel have benefited you?



- What else would you like to share about career development or mentoring before we close?





# Find Out More



<https://georgiaplanning.org/mentor-program/>



Applications for 2026 open in October



Reach out to Mollie Bogle ([mentor@georgiaplanning.org](mailto:mentor@georgiaplanning.org)) for more information!