

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle
January 19-24, 2007**

Topic: Mentoring Program - Next Steps

Background: The Division Membership and Promotion Committee conducted a survey of mentors and mentees; however only 7 persons completed the online survey. The final report and recommendations were supposed to be submitted at Annual 06, but the group requested more time and submitted them to the Fall Executive Committee Meeting.

Action Required: Action

General Observations:

The majority of the participants felt the program was worthwhile, but most felt that their mentees did not really need much assistance from them. In general the time frame seemed to work for most of the participants. Most of the participants felt that more guidance and structure from YALSA (or an appointed liaison) would have been helpful.

Recommendations:

- 1. YALSA DMP – or perhaps a new/separate taskforce – should provide more guidelines, tools for fostering a good relationship, and in general be more involved to “push” and encourage communication between the participants.** Many participants admitted that they lost touch over time and would have benefited from periodic emails, ice breaking activities, questions or assignments from a third party to keep the communications going. Some participants suggested a checklist, or a set schedule to make communicating more directed and on target.
- 2. Match mentors and mentees by geography.** Most participants felt that having the opportunity to meet face-to-face would have enhanced the experience. Those that were close together geographically had a more fruitful experience.
- 3. Match mentors and mentees by specific interests.** Some participants felt that if they had matched up based on a mutual interest in graphic novel collections, anime/manga, art/crafts programming, management track etc. that the relationship would have been more directed and productive.
- 4. Target and promote the program to Library Science/Information School students.** Many of the mentors felt that their help wasn't necessarily needed. Several commented that their mentee didn't really seem to need any assistance. Those that sought the mentor were actually more accomplished than they realized. Survey results showed that many participants

thought starting this relationship while still in school would have been a good step. Targeting graduate students might also identify those with an interest in teen services earlier on. Having a relationship with a practicing teen librarian might lead more graduate students into the teen services fold.

5. Turn to YALSA SUS trainers to assist in locating potential mentors from their state. Since SUS trainers know their region they could also assist in involving the ALA accredited graduate schools in their state. SUS trainers would be an important tool if the geographical consideration were accepted.

Recommendation of Executive Committee:

- That the Board charge the Research Committee with investigating associations' mentoring program best practices and give a final report to the Board at Annual 2007.
- Others?