

**Blog Post:**  
**By Frank Juhasz**

### **The Role of a Mentor in Your Career**

Many professionals that I've met over the course of my short career have suggested finding a mentor in order to further develop and challenge myself as I progress in the Supply Chain Management field. This advice has been delivered through multiple forms – internships, networking events, class presentations and after-work industry meetings. Many will see it as an opportunity to build their network and to polish skills under the advice of industry veterans, but really, it's about building those relationships and fostering continuous learning within your community.

A common thought around mentorship is that in order to become a mentor, one has to have a certain amount of experience to qualify. However, a blog post by Sarah Scudder that I recently found on *Inside Supply Management Weekly* seemed to challenge that idea. Her post, titled "Mentoring Has No Age Requirement" discusses that years of experience isn't a requirement in becoming a mentor. The key to becoming a successful mentor is being able to analyze your successes and failures and to share the lessons learned with others. With each experience, there is value to be gained through knowledge sharing.

I found the blog to be very relatable to many of our experiences. Many of us may have been intentionally seeking a mentor while others have come across theirs by accident. However, instead of seeking a mentor, why not *become* one? The role a mentee can play is equally as powerful as that of a mentor. Mentees can broaden our knowledge horizon through discussions of new trends and challenge us with questions and concepts that we haven't thought of before. Essentially, they're pushing us mentors outside our knowledge comfort zone and forcing us to stay up-to-date in the world of business.

As you continue on in your professional career, I encourage you to become both a mentor and a mentee as it will not only have a positive impact on your career, but also the careers of those around you. The best part about today's world is that mentorship is no longer limited to your immediate region and can be done via video chat, email, or phone with someone on the other side of the country. Finding a mentee could be as easy as being a mentor to a new-hire or volunteering through a partnership with a student organization at your local university. Who knows, perhaps your next mentor or mentee will be at the next ISM-Philadelphia event!

Link to original blog: <http://ismmagazine.org/mentoring-has-no-age-requirement/>