Mentor expectations - What do I want?

Use this worksheet to develop an understanding of what you expect to gain from your mentoring relationships. By clarifying your own expectations, you will be able to communicate and work more effectively with your students. Check all of the items which pertain to you: which ones do you deem important? This worksheet may be modified to meet the specific needs of your unit.

The reasons I want to be a mentor are to:

___ Encourage and support a graduate student in my field
___ Establish close, professional relationships
___ Challenge myself to achieve new goals and explore alternatives
___ Pass on knowledge
___ Create a network of talented people
___ Be connected to the “real world”
___ Work together with student to move a research agenda forward
___ Follow through on my academic responsibility (i.e., personal/social)
___ Share outside interests (e.g., music, ideas)
___ Other _______________________________________________________________

I hope that my student and I will:

___ Tour my workplace, classroom, center, or lab
___ Go to formal mentoring events together
___ Meet over coffee or meals
___ Go to educational events such as lectures, conferences, talks, or other university events together
___ Go to local, regional, and national professional meetings together
___ Engage in social activities (e.g., play golf, go fishing) together
___ Other _______________________________________________________________

I hope that my student and I will discuss:

___ Academic subjects most benefit to his/her career, with a potential to be mutually beneficial
___ Career options and professional preparation
___ The realities of the workplace
___ My work
___ Their work
___ Technical and related issues (e.g., writing)
___ Skill development
___ How to network (e.g., find multiple mentors)
___ How to manage work and family life
___ Personal dreams and life circumstances
___ Other resources available on campus - when and how to access
___ Other _______________________________________________________________