

Take part: BCLA Mentorship continues to grow

By Tamarack Hockin.

BCLA Mentorship's second session is now complete! 34 of our colleagues participated in a successful fall session.

BCLA Mentorship connects new library professionals with their more experienced colleagues in the field. Prospective mentees and mentors apply and are matched with consideration to interest, experience, and geography.

Looking for guidance?

Are you a recent graduate, a returning professional, or new to the B.C. library community? The BCLA Mentorship Program can connect you with a more experienced colleague who shares your interests.

Mentees recommend the program because...

"The BCLA mentorship program is an...especially great program to undertake in the last term of your MLIS program, as this is a time when you can encounter many difficulties with preparing your job applications and presenting your skills and expertise in the most effective way."

"This is a very good opportunity of learning and networking. You gain wisdom, information and experience from the mentor without paying anything. It's a valuable program for recent or future graduates."

"I graduated with my MLIS in 2009 and was getting very frustrated at my not being able to find a career. My mentor helped me refocus and get back on track with her wise words. Toward the end of the program I got my first librarian position, and I credit part of this personal success to my mentor. I hope one day, I can prove as useful an asset to a mentee, as my mentor was to me."

Have experience to share?

Are you an experienced librarian, technician or other library professional looking for an opportunity to connect with new colleagues?

Mentors recommend the program because...

"Participating in the program as a mentor was a rewarding experience. I hope my contribution may help a keen and talented person to determine a good fit in the profession. For me, it was a useful opportunity to reflect on experience and on professional issues beyond my workplace and my sector, and to refresh my insight and empathy for those seeking to establish a career."

"It's important for us old timers to make ourselves available to the up and comers. It's good for us to keep in touch with what it is like starting out in the profession these days, and important for the new folks starting out to have someone to ask questions of."

Connect with mentorship

Intake for the Spring 2013 session begins March 1st. The Spring Session will run for eight weeks, from April 1st to May 27th.

Check www.bcla.bc.ca/mentorship for more details on the program, and for applications beginning March 1st!

Tamarack Hockin is a coordinator for the BCLA Mentorship Committee, and works with teens at the City Centre Library in Surrey.