

## Getting to Know Your Mentor, Adapted<sup>1</sup> for the Physics Department Mentoring Forum, May 2009

- Why did your mentor choose to pursue Physics as a career, and why specifically in academe? What strengths do they feel they have which have positively contributed to their professional development?
- What are other jobs your mentor has had? What skills did your mentor develop in these jobs, and what is the relationship between those skills and those your mentor uses in his/her current position?
- What skills did your mentor need to learn specifically for his/her current position, and how did he/she acquire these skills?
- What other jobs could your mentor do with the same skills?
- What does your mentor like most about his/her job?
- What would your mentor change about his/her job?
- What interpersonal skills does your mentor find most important at work, and why?
- What attitudes and values are important to your mentor, and how are these reflected in his/her work?
- What are obstacles or barriers your mentor had to overcome?
- How has your mentor's family life/personal life affected their career? How has your mentor balanced personal relationships, family, and a career?
- Does your mentor prefer to work independently or in collaboration with others?
- What does your mentor perceive as his or her future?
- What positive or negative experiences has your mentor faced in the work or academic environment?
- If your mentor has faced discrimination, how did he or she overcome it?
- Does your mentor have insights into the basic "political" realities and interpersonal conflicts which are common in the professional or academic setting?
- Did your mentor ever feel like quitting school, and what changed his or her mind?

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<sup>1</sup> From the CWD Guide for Administrators and Handbook for Mentees