Preparing students for successful careers and lives.
Workforce Readiness Gap

- Business executives expect graduates to begin with core basic knowledge and the ability to apply their skills in the workplace.

- **Nationwide Gap:** Applied skills of professionalism, communication, leadership, critical thinking and self-confidence.

- **Solution:** Executive Mentor Program launched Fall 2012

[Image of graduates and mentors]
High Impact Program

Description of Executive Mentor Program:

- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Partnered one-on-one with local business executives
- Network, learn from experience, and establish professional connections.
- Mentor serves as a coach and role model
- Share personal, business and professional experience, knowledge and skills to help the student prepare for and be ready to enter the business world.

Goals & Objectives:

- Prepare students for successful careers in business by integrating academic learning with real-world experiences.
- 100 participants (50 students matched with 50 mentors for a year.)

uwf.edu/executivementor
Matching Mentors & Students

- Mentors are paired with students based on academic backgrounds, career fields, common interests, and/or availability.

- Students and Mentors commit to meet 1 – 2 hours per month throughout the academic school year.

- Meet at mentors' workplace
- Coffee at Starbucks
- Attend Rotary luncheon
- Shadow during a business meeting or sales call
- Attend Board meeting
- Meet on UWF campus
- Attend lectures, seminars, or workshops together
Enriching Speaker Series

Student enriching activities, training and networking events.

Meet & Greet Networking Events

Quint Studer Employee Engagement

Navy Diversity & Inclusion Workshop

“What Employers are Looking For” Panel Discussion

Marine Corps. Leadership Workshop

Mark Whitaker (“The Informant”) Ethics
Unique Conference
(for students, faculty, community members)

Inaugural Year: more than 400 attendees
Keynote speakers, panel discussions, networking
Benefits to UWF Students

- High quality student experience
- Professional development
- Clarify career goals
- Workforce readiness
- Business connections
- Networking skills
- Career success (enhance opportunities for future internships and jobs)
Benefits to University of West Florida

- Enhance high quality business program
- AACSB Accreditation (AACSB highlighted this UWF program as an “Effective Practice”).
- Regional, national and international recognition
- Enrollment growth through recruitment and retention
- Community engagement and partnerships
Benefits to Business Executives

- Opportunity to pay-it-forward/give back
- Personal satisfaction
- Workforce readiness of future recruits
- Chance to advise and impact the next generation of business leaders
High Impact Measurable Outcomes

- Effective executive mentoring increases the workforce readiness of college students.

- Two years of outcome research indicate nearly every participating student has:
  - a better understanding of professionalism
  - improved communication skills
  - improved leadership skills
  - improved critical thinking skills
  - more self-confidence.

- Participants acquire internships and full-time jobs, in part as a result of what they learn from their mentors.

View a 3 min. video of students and mentors sharing their thoughts about the mentoring program at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6KaDVno5BM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6KaDVno5BM)