

What is mentoring?

Mentoring originates from Homer's *Odyssey*. Ulysses, before departing for Troy, introduces his son to a wise friend and advisor, Mentor. Mentor serves not only as a counselor to the prince during Ulysses' 20-year absence, but also as a guardian and guide. Most important, Mentor does not replace Ulysses in the parental role; rather, Mentor with the help of the goddess Athena, assists a young prince to problem-solve, to understand and embrace the challenges that await him.