



Mentoring Undergraduates for Religious and Interreligious Leadership

Marsh Chapel at Boston University and the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership at Hebrew College are collaborating on an edited volume on the topic of mentoring undergraduates for religious and interreligious leadership. We are soliciting chapters for the volume from colleagues and institutions with a legacy of cultivating such leaders in hopes of harvesting the wisdom that has arisen in each of our contexts regarding mentoring and making those insights available more broadly. Out of this work, we hope to cultivate a regional, and then perhaps also a national, network of mentoring practitioners for ongoing dialogue and support.

We hope you will consider submitting a chapter of 5,000-8,000 words reflecting on your work as a mentor of undergraduates exploring religious and interreligious leadership. We do not necessarily expect that such leadership will take a professional form, although that may be an outcome of the mentoring process for some. We do hope that these chapters will emphasize narrative and reflection over theorizing. Toward that end, we invite you to include stories that exhibit the values and vision of your institutional context, stories of those you have mentored and how your relationship with them has been transformative for them and for you, stories of interactions among your mentees, and stories of where they have gone since. We also invite you to include stories of your own relationship with your mentor(s).

We also invite you to consider the following questions to guide your reflection:

- What texts, stories, and experiences inspire, guide, and shape your mentoring of undergraduates, and what texts, stories, and experiences inspire them?
- How is your mentoring work situated in your institutional context and its history, values, and vision?
- Are there specific mentoring practices that you have found especially effective?
- Is there a formalized program in which your mentoring work takes place? If so, what is the framework of that program?
- What paradigms, either theoretical or in the form of an embodied model, guide your approach to working with mentees?
- How do you encourage your mentees to relate beyond the borders of their own tradition(s) and how do they lead you to do the same?
- Are there particular challenges or blessings that emerge from working with undergraduates who do not identify with a tradition (i.e. "spiritual but not religious," "nones"), or who identify with multiple religious communities?

Draft chapters may be sent to Rev. Soren Hessler at the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership (shessler@hebrewcollege.edu). We look to have draft chapters in hand by October 1, 2018, and then to have a gathering in Boston to review the chapters together in early 2019. Funding for the gathering is made possible through a Cultivating Future Leaders Grant that Marsh Chapel received from the Forum for Theological Exploration for this purpose.