



"The mentorship program has been amazing so far! I look forward to my monthly meetings where I can have a free-flowing conversation with my mentor. I feel like we could talk for hours about career paths and professional development.

I enjoy gaining another perspective from Peter as a seasoned professional. I initially joined this program to network and have enjoyed the individuals I have connected with. **The NAF Alumni Mentorship program has allowed me the opportunity to become more involved in the NAF network.** I'm glad to have been paired with Peter, who is a wise young professional who enjoys everything he does."

— Martha Stewart, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, Class of 2020

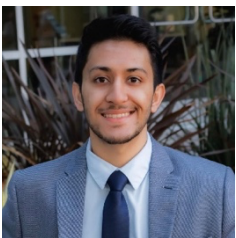


"The mentorship program has been a fantastic experience that has opened my eyes to new insights from my mentee and her incredible life.

NAF has shaped much of who I am today. I was looking for a way to give back when I finally stumbled across the NAF Alumni Mentorship program. I enjoy the flexibility and ease of the program, as well as the opportunity to emulate the leaders in my life who have been so influential. **Mentors and mentees meet when they want, along with the helpful guidance of Susan and her team. We have the tools necessary to succeed, so it's only a matter of focusing on mentorship.**

I'm constantly inspired to keep living my best life, courtesy of my chats with Martha. She is a special person, and I'm learning quite a bit from her. I am hearing the latest hospitality news from her time at the Confidante Hotel in Miami, along with hearing what she's learning while wrapping up school. I even found out she's now an official notary! I am very thankful for our relationship and all the things I can learn and teach her.

—Peter Mann, Academy of Finance, Class of 2011



"The mentorship program has been an amazing experience! I feel privileged to stay involved with NAF after high school and to receive great advice and insight from my mentor. **I believe that one of the best resources we can leverage is the experience and knowledge of those who are more experienced.** Shatiek has been that resource for me, and is so kind and encouraging, helping me with everything from improving my resume to how to seek out a healthy work-life balance.

I wanted to join the Alumni Mentorship program to remain involved at NAF and get to know others who had been positively impacted by the same organization that has done that for me. I also was already seeking a mentor who could help weigh in on my interests and goals to better determine what career is right for me.

Shatiek plays a great role in helping me weigh the pros and cons, such as when I was deciding which city I should intern in and how it might affect my future. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to connect with someone else who has an immense appreciation for NAF and was greatly impacted by it. It's extremely fun chatting with Shatiek about what we have going on in our lives and learning more from him."

— Neil Walia, Academy of Entrepreneurship, Class of 2020



"When I think back to my experiences, from high school to college, and now as a young professional, the consistent through-line that has carried me from milestone to milestone has been mentors. **I have benefited immensely from individuals taking the time to provide me with the right coaching and advice that has made a significant difference in the trajectory of my life and career.**

The mentor experience has been very rewarding for me and has been my opportunity to pay it forward as a mentor. Neil is such a bright student and person, and I am enjoying learning about his university experiences and seeing him take advantage of the opportunities available to him to accelerate his career goals. I look forward to the chance I get to catch up with him monthly!

The greatest benefit of the NAF mentoring program is the chance to provide advice I have found helpful or that I wish I knew when I was in their shoes. **This is the most important thing that I want to get out of this program, less on what I am taking from, and more about what I am able to give to it."**

—Shatiek Gatlin, Academy of Finance, Class of 2012



"The mentor experience has been absolutely amazing! Honestly, at first, I thought this process would be intimidating and that my mentor would critique me and make me feel I was doing my college/internship process wrong, but Liz has been the complete opposite. She is not only supportive of me and my decisions, but also guides me through processes like resume writing and portfolio-building on LinkedIn.

I wanted to participate in the NAF mentoring program because I knew it would be a great way for me to connect with those in a similar career. As someone focused on Digital Marketing, I wanted to network and see the ins and outs of this fast-growing field. Additionally, I wanted guidance to navigate through college as a first-generation student, while also maintain internships and a social life.

I am gaining not only tips and guidance for the job world, but a friend as well. Liz has helped me improve my ability to be more presentable and professional in interviewing and applying for internships. I now know what job recruiters look for when it comes to standing out with my resume. I'm enjoying just how friendly and social this program is. Not everything is about work, but its purpose. Working on myself with Liz has opened my eyes to areas of improvement on myself, while also making a friend."

— Kamran Ahmed, Academy of Finance, Class of 2020



"The NAF mentor experience has been great! During our first session, we got to know each other, and discovered that our post-college goals were very similar. Since then, I've been sharing with him my internship insights, tips for applying for full-time jobs, and life after college. Even though I'm the mentor, I've learned a lot from Kamran. He's only in his second year of college, yet he's done some amazing internships and more. I'm inspired by his drive and work ethic. From our past conversations, I've taken each session to not only cater to his goals but also as a chance to learn from him.

I've enjoyed getting to know Kamran on a more personal level and hearing about his experience and leverage with NAF. I think NAF is a program that sets you up for success and everyone's experience is what they make of it. One reason I wanted to join the NAF mentorship program is to continue to stay connected and involved with NAF since it's such a great community! Kamran has really made the most out of his time with NAF and has inspired me to find more ways to get involved on a national and local level."

— Elisabeth Vosburgh, Academy of Finance, Class of 2015



"My experience in the mentorship program has been great! I feel so connected to my mentor and have already gained so much valuable insight.

I wanted to take part in the mentorship program because I believe we have a lot to learn from others in life. I have always been very ambitious, and I love taking advantage of every opportunity available to me to develop myself. This relationship has been all of this and more! Ms. Luisa has gotten me an inside look at her businesses and a heightened understanding of the global business/sports entertainment industry. It is immensely helpful because certain fields in the business realm, like consulting, require more experiential learning, and I love hearing about my mentor's experiences! I look forward to our bi-monthly meetings and all the insights she has to offer."

— Adjo Evonlah, Academy of Finance, Class of 2020



"The mentorship program has been absolutely wonderful! When I was younger, my mentor, Mark Gatley instilled in me to always pay-it-forward. I believe in many ways I would not be where I am today if it was not for my mentors and NAF.

Giving back and mentoring NAF students, I feel, is the very least I can do for all that this organization has done for me. Mentoring Adjo has been a wonderful opportunity to meet a remarkable NAF student who is so eager to conquer the world. I see much of myself in her and am also learning from Adjo, who is wise beyond her years. I can't wait to see the things she accomplishes! I believe that if we are open to the concept of learning, we can indeed learn from everyone around us regardless of their age. I love our bi-monthly calls, where I hear about her progress, and share my insights with her, in hopes that I can spare her the lessons I had to learn the hard way."

— Luisa Mendoza, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, Class of 2002



"My experience with NAF's alumni mentorship program has been amazing! I would definitely recommend this to a NAF alumni, particularly, to those who are first-generation college students.

As a first-generation college student, it can be hard to find some genuine help, so I chose to have a mentor to serve as a good role model. Mindy has been just that: a huge help in navigating college and personal life. I am now receiving great advice, internship opportunities, NAF updates, and communication from my mentor. I really enjoy being a part of the NAF community and love receiving updates about its success!"

—Daryll Jackson, Academy of Health Sciences, Class of 2020



"To me, it's always been a passion to give back to my community and to mentor the next generation of young professionals. As a first-generation college student, I remember being confused and not having the proper resources. I want to help in bridging this gap for those who are new to the game, as I was.

I love my mentor-mentee relationship with Daryll. She encourages me with her hard work and dedication and reminds me to be the best person I can be. We both learn from each other and grow more from sharing advice and personal stories. I always look forward to our meetings and can't wait to hear the things she has to share with me about her college and life journey. I couldn't be happier with who I was paired with!"

— Mindy Kim, Academy of Finance, Class of 2015