

From the Pittsburgh Business Times

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/print-edition/2012/06/22/how-important-is-it-to-have-a-mentor.html>

How important is it to have a mentor?

Premium content from Pittsburgh Business Times by Jordan Markley, Editorial Intern

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"I've had several great mentors during my career and believe you can be successful more quickly thanks to their guidance. It's especially helpful to find a mentor who's already achieved what you're trying to achieve, and one willing to share the hard-won lessons learned. When starting my business, one mentor offered sample client contracts, business development ideas, outsourcing resources and moral support."

— [Mary Ann Miller](#), president, [Mary Ann Miller](#) Communications LLC

"It was very important because not only did they show me the client servicing side, but they also showed me the business side as well — how important the bottom line was. Having someone with experience of how to handle difficult situations meant a lot to me in the beginning."

— [John P. Abriola](#), president, Select Financial Group Inc.

"What coaches do is they don't help you get over hurdles, they help you focus and dedicate time to things that, when you're running a small business, you don't have time to do. In small business, you're juggling 300 balls a day and it's harder to focus on the big picture."

— [Lori Carpenter](#), president, Carpenter Legal Search Inc.