PASSING THE TORCH

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“A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are.”

-Ara Parasheghian

In our lives as teachers, we come to a point when we are just starting and we need some guidance and advices to make us become competent in our chosen field. The good point is, there are some well-experienced teachers who are willing to coach and guide the younger ones. The process of seniors, training juniors is MENTORING.

The Importance of Mentoring

Why is mentoring important in the field of education? A newly-hired teacher is still inexperienced and he needs guidance. Fresh from the college or university he graduated from, most of what he learned are from textbook theories. Although it is good to have textbook theory, these teachers still need to learn from real life experiences of senior teachers. As what the saying goes, “Experience is the BEST teacher.” Learning from real-life situations can greatly help the new teacher. The older or senior teacher share his techniques and strategies which the new teacher can apply.

Aside from the aforementioned things, mentoring also helps the new teacher to be fruitful yet humble. Some of the newly hired teachers and fresh graduates are riding high in their achievement in college. It is good point, on the other hand, they need to learn to listen and accept things in the real world of education. Through mentoring, seniors can transfer the wisdom to these “newbies.

According to the article “Management Mentors”, mentors or senior need to train juniors to become successors someday. These seniors are searching for persons who can handle the work. Mentoring also aims to spread knowledge and find new mentors. For
example, the mentor trains a new teacher Math so in the future, there will be more trainers in Math. It also aims to tap the potential of new teachers.

What it takes to be a Mentor?

A mentor is patient, active listener. He is also dedicated to the schools’ success and the success of others. He is also diligent, responsible and ready.

Anybody can be an instructor but not anybody can be a mentor. It requires PASSION, PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING and DEDICATION.

What it Takes to Be A Mentoree?

In the article, “7 Habits of Effective Mentoring’, a ‘mentoree” must be an active listener, willing to accept advices and corrections, responsible, respectful, ready and willing to step out of comfort zone.

A mentoree must know and accept that not all textbook theories may be effective in classroom management. Sometimes, the best strategies are learned through teachers who were tested by time. A good mentoree is also open-minded and teachable.

Mentoring and coaching are effective if only we are open to be taught and trained.

As the saying also goes, “A good master knows when, how and whom to pass the torch.

Reference:

Source: www.ManagementMentors.com