



South Dakota Counseling Association

Emerging Leaders Program

SDCA Emerging Leader Mentoring Program: Sample Discussion Questions: These are to be used as just a guide to facilitate conversation and to grow a strong relationship between the Emerging Leader and their Mentor. These questions should be asked both ways (when applicable) to assist in continued development of the Emerging Leader.

Personal Development Questions:

- Who are your personal and professional mentors and why are these people able to inspire and connect with you?
- How do you strike a healthy balance between your professional and personal life?
- What are your professional goals and dreams (Short-term and long-term)?
- What is the one action you have taken that has accounted for most of your success?
- How do you handle professional obstacles and roadblocks?

Career Related Questions:

- Why did you pursue a career in counseling?
- What do you like best about being a counselor?
- Why did you choose to work in your current setting? In what other counseling settings have you worked?
- If you could go back in time, what would you have done differently as a graduate student?
- What books or theories have most influenced your ideas and thoughts?

Leadership Related Questions:

- What do you like about being a leader?
- What was your favorite position to hold in a professional organization and why?
- What are the challenges you face as a leader in an organization?
- How would you implement or promote positive change at your job or within your professional organization?
- What are skills that have proven to be important in your job or in leadership that perhaps you did not anticipate needing?

Professional Development Questions:

- Why is it important to you to be an SDCA member?
- How do you stay up-to-date with current research and practice issues in counseling?
- What do you think are the biggest challenges facing counselors today?
- Who or what are some of your most important resources that you use to guide you in your career and job?

