

Grow the Talent That Will Grow Your Company

# **IMpower Mentor Toolkit**



The Women's Organization for Mentoring Education & Networking Developing Leaders Who Deliver Results



# Welcome to **MPOWER** Mentoring

Thank you for joining us as a mentor in IMpower! With your experience, commitment, and skills, we know that you will be a vital resource to the IMpower participants as they seek to grow and evolve their careers.

This mentoring toolkit provides you with the resources you need to fully understand your role as a mentor, and leverage the experience so that YOU can:

- Gain new insights that have far-reaching impact on your own management and teams;
- Continue to hone your mentoring and coaching skills;
- Broaden your network;
- Gain new insights on how to be a stronger advocate for your internal organization-wide diversity;
- Further develop leadership competencies;
- Broaden your perspectives;
- Increase awareness of personal biases, assumptions, and development approaches;
- Positively influence women's careers and help them grow.



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# **IMPOWER** Program Goals

# We develop...

- Agile Learners who engage in self- reflection, seek feedback and adapt to the business environment with speed and flexibility
- Confident Contributors who possess business acumen, organizational savvy, and clear ownership of their career
- Relationship Builders who use their networks to collaborate and influence successfully to drive results

- Talented Communicators who speak up and step forward to build credibility and seek opportunities
- Innovative Thinkers who successfully navigate a global business environment and contribute to organization's success
- Catalysts of Productive Change
   who challenge the status quo and
   develop new approaches to
   business issues





# **IMPOWER** Journey

IMpower: where Impact meets empowerment. This six-month development program focuses on building and retaining organizations' emerging talent pipeline.



Through WOMEN Unlimited's facilitated learning process, early-career women learn to take charge of their own career growth and development and to advance their skills by working with peers, superiors, mentors and networks. This holistic, integrated, experiential approach to development helps to "grow the leaders that grow your company."

Bottom line: IMpower provides early-career talent with the tools, techniques and strategies required for career-long success. And you, as mentors, are a key part of that success.



# **IMPOWER** Mentoring

**Goal:** Intentionally building developmental relationships for career sustainability.



The mentoring component of IMpower consists of external mentors who join us for part of the monthly development sessions, as well as formal peer mentors. Managers are the "vital link" to ensuring that program goals are integrated and "on the job" opportunities for growth are leveraged. All contribute to the accountability on goals and commitments.

The IMpower participants will drive how much engagement occurs outside of a monthly session, however, please DO encourage them to report out on successes and learnings.



# **Key Mentoring Principles**

- Intentionally building developmental relationships for career sustainability
- At its core, mentoring relationships are learning relationships
- The questions you ask, help mentees to REFLECT, LEARN, and GROW



### HOW:

- Ask Questions
- Listen
- ▶ Tell the Truth
- Request their Best
- Encourage. Don't "Solve"



# Setting the Foundation for Effective Mentor Interactions



- Establish relationship of Mutual Respect and Trust
- Support mentees with accomplishing their IDP
- Ask powerful questions that help mentees assess situations to determine necessary actions
- Assist with "real time" challenges
- Share experiences, perspectives & insights
- Hold mentees accountable for taking action (Get their commitment!)



# **IMPOWER** Mentoring Guidelines



As Mentors, your objective is to help the IMpower participants think through their career challenges and arrive at more strategic solutions vs. simply telling them what to do!

### IMpower Mentors have two primary roles.

- 1. Participate on a Mentor Panel, where you will be asked to share your insights, perspectives, and lessons learned. Specific questions will be sent to you in your session confirmation email and are also provided on Pages 10-11 of this toolkit.
- 2. For most sessions, you will also lead two "group mentoring" sessions for a small group of IMpower participants. Each group mentoring session will last approximately 30 minutes. In each breakout group, participants will share a challenge, based on the session topic.

### Your role in the Group Mentoring is to:

- Lead the discussion, ask questions, and to challenge the assumptions or thoughts that can be limiting the IMpower participants' perspectives and approaches.
- Turn "Learning into Leadership" by making a Request! At the end of each mentoring conversation, ask each participant to make a Commitment. What will they do differently, and how will they know it is working?



# **Group Mentoring Guidelines and Tips**

### **Group Mentoring Process:**

- 1. Ask participant to briefly describe situation. (Participants will have already been asked to identify a situation or challenge they want to address.)
- 2. To frame the Mentoring Discussion, Participant asks a question, "How can I...?"
- 3. Peer coaches and mentors take turns asking coaching questions or giving suggestions. (5 -7 minutes total for questions / suggestions.)
- 4. Mentor Asks: "What was most helpful so far?"
- 5. Call to Action: "What are you going to do this month?" Participant identifies 1-2 commitments and actions.

## Sample Coaching Questions:

- How does this relate to your Career Vision, or IDP goals?
- What would success look like for you? (Ask for details!)
- What have you tried already?
- What are your other options?
- What would (someone you admire) do / say?
- What's stopping you from taking action?
- What is your biggest fear? or What is getting in your way?"
- What's the best possible outcome? The worst possible outcome? Can you live with that?
- If this issue were mine, instead of yours, what would you advise ME to do?
- What did you do to contribute to the situation?
- Assuming the other person has good intentions, how might they be seeing the situation?
- What is your Plan B? C? etc.

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# **IMPOWER** Mentoring Focus by Session

# Topic

Savvy Relationships: Expanding your Influence and Increasing your Impact	Relationship Builders know how to use their networks across diverse organizations for collaboration and for successfully influencing and driving results. As one continues to progress in an organization, it is impossible to "do it all yourself". It is important to know how to collaborate effectively, develop strong team relationships, and leverage the talents of others to meet key goals. This session provides the skills needed for starting to build a personal network using both interpersonal and organizational savvy. Participants will also interact with external mentors and discover how to effectively use mentors and others inside their organization to increase their sphere of influence. Panel Topics: When in your career did you realize that you needed to build "strategic alliances" in order to be an effective leader? What advice can you share about building and leveraging a network inside your organization? Outside your organization? How do you make the time for creating real (vs. superficial) relationships with key individuals in your network? What VIRTUAL tips can you share (i.e. building strong relationships when you aren't local)?
Bolstering Your Business Impact: Personally and Virtually	Confident Contributors and Talented Communicators know how to adapt to diverse situations, speak up, and communicate effectively in a virtual environment to build credibility. During this full day of development, participants will work with their virtual Project Teams to develop and deliver a virtual presentation, after which external mentors will provide feedback. Topics covered in this session include navigating matrix organizations, virtual collaboration, and increasing visibility. Peer teams will also work together to determine how they are progressing on their development plans, and to identify and share how they are leveraging their strengths in new and productive ways in their organizations. Panel Topics: Provide feedback via a virtual panel to the IMpower participants on the "impact" of their presentations, share your top tips and practical strategies for leading, communicating, and building credibility in a virtual environment.
Developing "Brand You": Confident. Visible. Vocal.	<ul> <li>Talented Communicators know how to speak up and step up to build credibility and seek opportunities. Confidence drives trust and respect from others. In this session, participants will identify and practice the key changes that will enable them to be more credible and compelling when speaking anywhere, anytime, with anyone. The key pillars of "Brand You" that are explored include:</li> <li>Awareness of key strengths and differentiators</li> <li>Ability to clearly articulate value and impact (vs. focusing on "activities")</li> <li>The courage and conviction to have the conversations that inspire and shift others' thinking.</li> </ul> Panel Topics: The focus of this session is to provide the IMpower participants with the tools and strategies to enable them to be more credible and compelling when speaking anywhere, anytime, with anyone. What is your Personal Brand? What advice do you wish you knew earlier regarding personal branding? How do you contributions, without it being seen as "bragging".

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# **IMPOWER** Mentoring Focus by Session

Торіс		
Beyond your Department: Broadening Your Business Acumen	<b>Confident Contributors</b> possess business acumen and organizational savvy, and clearly understand how to contribute to their organization's immediate and long-term profitability. In this session, participants will explore what is needed to deepen business acumen and financial skills. Broadening acumen doesn't mean knowing it all; it means developing an awareness of the organization's key business drivers in order to more effectively position ideas. The three focus areas that can help or hurt will be defined and explored: understanding business drivers, identifying internal resources, and presenting a business case to show value. In addition, teams will create and present a business plan, incorporating financial, marketing, sales and profit projections.	
	<b>Panel Topics:</b> Provide feedback to IMpower participants on prepared Business Case presentations asking What stood out? What is one thing that would have made it stronger? What was missing? How was the Delivery?	
Change and Innovation: Your Career Catalysts	Productive Change Agents and Innovative Thinkers embrace and encourage themselves and others to challenge the status quo and develop new approaches to business issues. In this final session, participants will examine an innovative approach to seeking and driving positive change both personally and professionally. We will examine the change "mindset" and review a framework and tools that allow both participants themselves and their teams to thrive, improve, and seize opportunities for growth. In keeping with the theme of change, growth and regeneration, participants will assess their own personal and professional growth and evaluate their key learnings from the IMpower program. As a final task, they will determine "next steps - Where do I go from here?" A short graduation program will conclude the day.	
	<b>Panel Topics:</b> Provide feedback to IMpower participants to embrace and encourage themselves to challenge the status quo and develop new approaches to business issues.	



# **IMPOWER** Competencies

IMpower participants received feedback from the KF360 assessment tool, on the following competencies. The 360 competencies were selected to align with the IMpower Journey and were identified as the most crucial competencies for emerging talent to demonstrate in order to <u>successfully grow and succeed</u> in today's changing business climate, *regardless of job function*.

IMpower Competencies				
Self	Others	Business		
Self-Development	Build Networks	Organizational Savvy		
Manages Ambiguity	Communicates Effectively	Business Insight		
Nimble Learning (Agility)	Collaborates	Cultivates Innovation		
Self -Awareness	Interpersonal Savvy	Balances Stakeholders		

### DEFINITIONS

### Self-Development

Actively seeking new ways to grow and be challenged using both formal and informal development channels.

#### **Manages Ambiguity**

Operating effectively, even when things are not certain, or the way forward is not clear.

#### **Nimble Learning**

Actively learning through experimentation when tackling new problems, using both successes and failures as learning fodder.

### **Demonstrates Self-Awareness**

Using a combination of feedback and reflection to gain productive insight into personal strengths and weaknesses.

#### **Builds Networks**

Effectively building formal and informal relationship networks inside and outside the organization.

#### **Communicates Effectively**

Developing and delivering multimode communications that convey a clear understanding of the unique needs of different audiences.

#### Collaborates

Building partnerships and working collaboratively with others to meet shared objectives.

#### Interpersonal Savvy

Relating openly and comfortably with diverse groups of people.

### **Organizational Savvy**

Maneuvering comfortably through complex policy, process, and people-related organizational dynamics.

### **Business Insight**

Applying knowledge of business and the marketplace to advance the organization's goals.

### **Cultivates Innovation**

Creating new and better ways for the organization to be successful.

### **Balances Stakeholders**

Anticipating and balancing the needs of multiple stakeholders.

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# Sample IDP

The IDP guides each IMpower participant's journey. It starts with their "Career Vision." Their vision is beyond a job title; it encourages them to think about the IMPACT and Influence they would aspire to have as they grow in their career. It's a long-term aspiration, that reinforces career growth and sustainability.

As a mentor, we ask that you check in with your mentees about their IMpower development goals. How does today's topic align with their IDP goals and Career Vision? What did they learn in today's session that allows them to hone their skills, or update their IDP?



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# Thank you!

WOMEN Unlimited, Inc. is a world-renowned organization focusing on developing women leaders in major corporations. Because of its ability to pinpoint, develop & retain diverse highpotential leadership talent, WOMEN Unlimited, Inc. is the "go to" development partner for over 160 leading organizations.



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