

# Building Professional Relationships



Best Practices

# Agenda

## Welcome & Introductions



### **Building Professional Relationships with Faculty**

Lisa Armistead, Ph.D.

Associate Provost for Graduate Programs

Distinguished University Professor of Psychology

### **Building Professional Relationships in the Workplace**

Ms. Ramona Simien, Associate Director for Employer Relations  
University Career Services

### **Questions & Answers**

Type your questions into the chat window during the presentation. They will be collected and answered at the end of both presentations.



# Building Relationships with Faculty

Lisa Armistead, Ph.D.

Associate Provost for Graduate Programs

Distinguished University Professor of Psychology

Georgia State University



The core of graduate education in the U.S., as in many other countries, is the close relationship between the research student and the mentor, particularly for students enrolled in Ph.D. programs. These relationships begin as mentor/advisor and pupil and ideally end up as colleagues. Obviously, under these circumstances, it is imperative that the student and supervisor be as carefully matched as possible. Matching or fit can be an ongoing process and you can contribute to the success (or failure) of fit.

— Council of Graduate Schools Publication:  
Research Student and Supervisor

**Four Areas** to attend to as you do your part to have good relationships with your mentor and other faculty in your program

**1**

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Understand the  
Expectations

**2**

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Be Professional

**3**

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Practice Good  
Time-Management

**4**

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Manage issues in  
the relationship

# 1

## Understand the Expectations

- Hours per week
- Responsibilities
- If in doubt, ask for clarification
- Discuss publication credit, where appropriate

# 2

## Be Professional

- Formal address
- Punctuality
- Email etiquette
- Take responsibility for your behavior
- Make the most of the learning experience

# 3

## Practice Good Time-Management

- Huge diff between grad and undergrad
- Everything takes much longer. Plan accordingly.
- Try not to over-commit
- Break large tasks into smaller chunks and set deadlines (collaboratively if possible)



# 4

## Manage Issues in the Relationship

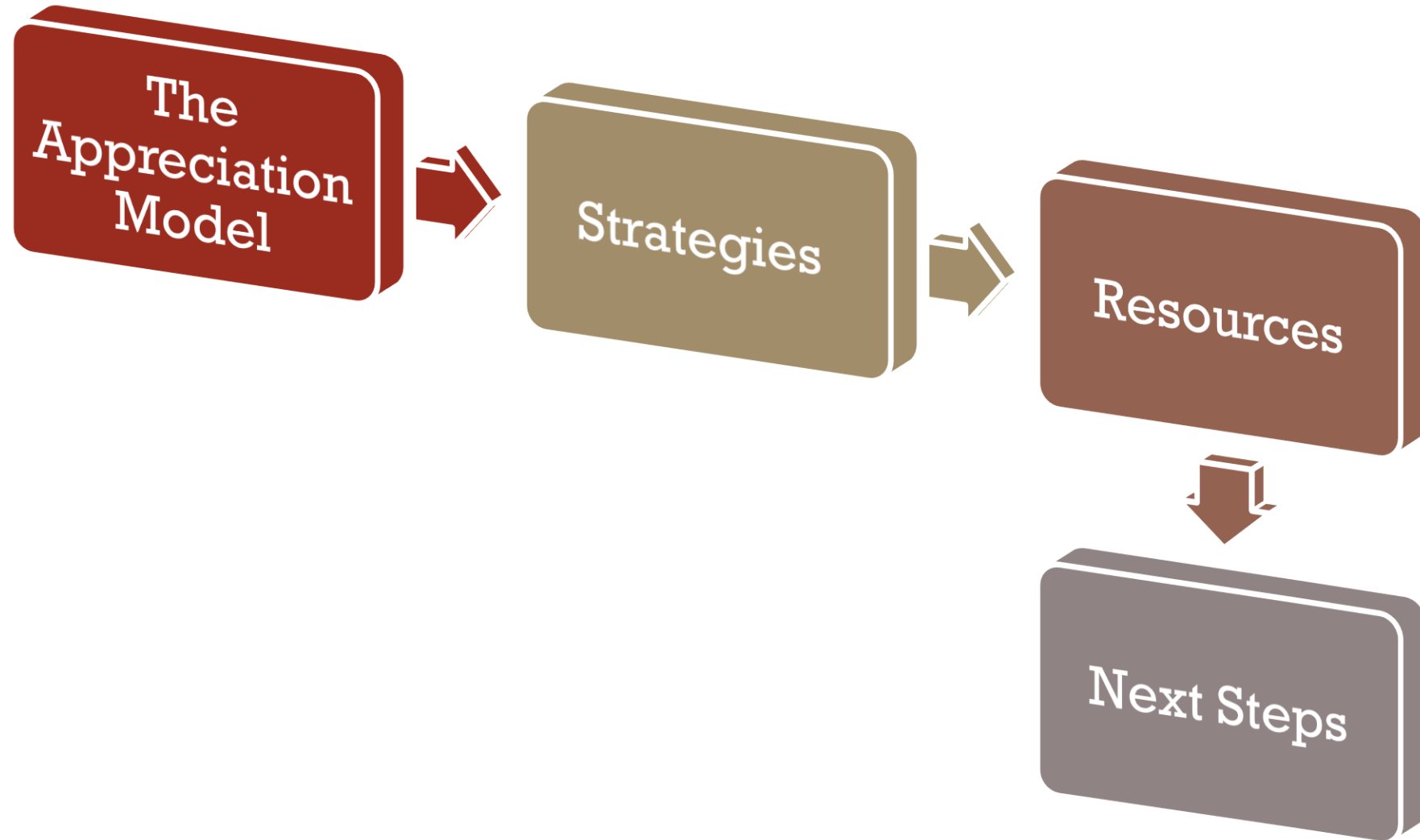
- Understand your role in the problem and take responsibility
- Don't avoid
- Talk first directly to the faculty member
- Elevate as needed

# BUILDING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



Ramona Simien,  
Associate Director,  
Employer  
Relations

# Overview



# The Appreciation model

- How do you feel when you are appreciated?

Gratitude Promotes  
Relationship Maintenance



Improve your communication skills

Respect for others

Respond to feedback positively

Check-in



# STRATEGIES







“I cheer for people.  
I was raised  
to believe there’s  
enough sun  
for everybody.”



## STRATEGIES CONT'

- Celebrate others
- Seek opinions
- Get coffee



# RESOURCES

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1

Eventbrite

2

Portfolium

3

Meet-ups

4

LinkedIn

5

Professional  
Associations







## RESOURCES CONT'

- Community Networks
  - Volunteering
  - Social Organizations
  - Neighborhood Associations
  - City Initiatives





# NEXT STEPS

- Do some housekeeping
  - Set aside some time to perform connection housekeeping
  - Re-introduction is okay
  - Ask a question
  - Suggest a coffee meet up
  - Send a thank you follow-up





# Questions

# Building Professional Relationships

THANK YOU

We Value Your Feedback | [click to take survey](#)



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