

HerdWork Humanities Mentorship Workshop — Curated Direct Quotes

Source: August workshop transcript (Mentoring & Humanities in the Workplace, Aug 26).

Community-based learning

- “We’re challenging a bias that tends to run through higher education... what we read in books or hear in lectures will always be more important than what we learn from people on the street, the community, people we have conversations with.”
- “I am consciously apprenticing myself to that community and saying, I have a lot to learn here.”

Mentorship

- “Be open to being surprised by who we learn from—it may not be the executive director; it will probably be peers, colleagues, and folks who come in.”
- “I always look for an opportunity for people to present what they’ve learned... it reinforces learning and gives affirmation.”

Reflection practices

- “I highly encourage all of your interns to keep a journal... some of it is just keeping track of little facts, but they’re going to want to capture it.”
- “Have a notepad with them at all times... everyone owns their own story.”

Ethics & story ownership

- “What happens at the nonprofit placement stays at the nonprofit placement... everyone owns their own story, and they’re the only ones who can give permission to share it.”

On learning through mistakes

- “I hope the interns make mistakes and learn from them—not big mistakes... just teachable, learnable moment mistakes.”

Skills & confidence

- “Help them understand what those transferable skills are and what those power skills are... their horizons are broad.”
- “I would like our interns to get the skill and the confidence to be able to network well.”

West Virginia & place-based impact

- “Help them get a sense of West Virginia’s cultural infrastructure and how vibrant it is... there is so much good work going on.”

The deeper aim

- “We have incredible hopes for them... I hope they meet somebody that inspires them that they’d never have had a conversation with before.”