

SIILK Network Mentorship Program

“Sustainable & Impact Investing Learning and Knowledge”

The Intentional Endowments Network (IEN) coordinates the SIILK Network, which brings together students, faculty, administrators, trustees, and financial professionals on campuses across the country, involved with student managed sustainable investing funds and sustainable investing curriculum development. Participants share best practices, resources, and curricula and undertake other activities to support sustainable investing education.

A component of this work is a mentorship program for pairing students with experts from the sustainable investing industry to provide real-world experience in sustainable investing and build their professional networks. The mentorship program aims to engage students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, including students of color and low-income students; with a goal of creating a more diverse pipeline of finance professionals with a solid grasp on sustainable investing.

Participant Roles & Responsibilities

Mentees are expected to:

- Develop with their mentor a set of tangible and feasible goals to complete within the term of the mentorship (i.e. establish ESG criteria for student-managed fund, introduce impact investing unit to finance course, host half day event on sustainable investing);
- Schedule and attend phone or in-person meetings with their mentor once a month to update them on progress in relation to their set goals and request feedback;
- Share the results of their mentorship with The SIILK Network and IEN more broadly through a blog post, report, case study, or other deliverable(s).

Mentors are expected to:

- Help their mentee develop a set of tangible and feasible goals for the formal mentorship period that leverage their expertise;
- Offer ongoing support and guidance to their mentee, both in relation to those goals and their broader career goals;
- Connect with their mentee once a month over the term of the project;

- Offer career advice, opportunities for informational interviews with colleagues, and access to relevant educational materials.

Selection, Eligibility, & Term

Participants in the program are selected and matched by IEN staff based on applications received through an annual call for mentors and mentees. Participation as a mentor or mentee is a one-year commitment, with required monthly calls to check-in on progress.

In order to apply to be a mentor, an organization must be an IEN Member. A [full member list](#) and [information on membership](#) are available on the IEN website.

In order to apply to be a mentee, students must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program with a demonstrated interest in sustainable investing.

Benefits to Participants

Both mentors and mentees benefit from the Mentorship Program through development and enhancement of professional skill sets. Specifically,

Mentees benefit by:

- Successfully implementing a project and developing new skills and expertise;
- Having access to support and new perspectives throughout project development and overall career development;
- Building their professional network.

Mentors benefit by:

- Enhancing their leadership skills and developing a reputation as subject matter experts and leaders;
- Deriving satisfaction from actively working toward the goal of creating a more diverse pipeline of finance professionals with a solid grasp on sustainable investing;
- Receiving recognition from IEN as a mentor on our website and in mentorship program materials.

Contact

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. For more information and to apply, contact Nicole Harman at nicole@intentionalendowments.org