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Mentoring in gerontology doctoral education: the role of elders in mentoring gerontologists

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This study examined elder mentors' and students' roles, functions, and satisfaction with the Elder Mentorship program at the Graduate Center for Gerontology, University of Kentucky. The Elder Mentorship program matches gerontology doctoral students with older adults in the community. Parallel surveys were constructed to evaluate the program from the perspectives of elder mentors and student mentees. Data were analyzed using descriptive frequency analyses, with open-ended questions analyzed thematically. Results show that students and elder mentors were mostly satisfied with their experiences. Elder mentors perceived their participation more positively than did student mentees. Future programs utilizing the elder mentorship model may benefit from matching students and elder mentors in terms of shared interests.

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