

MIPA MENTORS

“My first year of advising was daunting, and it became clear that none of my colleagues could really understand the unique challenges of advising a student newspaper. I would have been lost without my MIPA mentor, who I am now lucky enough to work with and to call a great friend of mine.”

Sarah Ashman,
Holt H.S.



GET HELP FROM AN EXPERIENCED ADVISER

Advising can be a lonely job — at many schools, there may only be one journalism teacher in the building.

But MIPA is here to help. In 2004, the MIPA board began a mentorship program for new advisers or those with a few years of advising experience. Since then, more than 60 beginning journalism advisers have been paired with experienced advisers from around the state.

SIGN UP!

Sign up for the MIPA mentoring program at mipamsu.org. Click on Resources, then click on Resources for Advisers in the menu.

You have questions, so let MIPA pair you with an experienced adviser who can provide support and talk through options.

- How should I organize my staff?
- How do I hold students accountable?
- How should I organize my deadlines?
- What are the best ways to motivate kids?

These are just a few questions that MIPA mentors can help you with.

BEING A GOOD MENTEE

- ▶ **If you want help from your mentor, be sure to ask for it.** Student media advisers are among the busiest people on Earth, but proactively seeking solutions can save you time, energy, and stress. You and your mentor will set up a schedule based on what you need and what they can give, but mentors are ready and willing to listen and give advice. Use them.
- ▶ **Use your mentor...or lose them.** MIPA mentors want to improve your quality of life and the quality of your program. They sign on to help build stronger journalism communities, but they need to hear from you.
- ▶ **Thank your mentor for their help.** MIPA mentors are willing to give multiple hours to help their mentees. Be sure to recognize their effort.
- ▶ **Contact the MIPA office** or Ava Butzu or Betsy van der Zee, mentoring coordinators, at the first sign of a bad mentoring relationship. We have more mentors than mentees, and if something isn't going right, we can easily pair you with someone else.

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

Our mentoring coordinator can be reached at mentor@mipamsu.org.



LEARN MORE about the MIPA Mentor program at mipamsu.org
OR CONTACT THE MIPA OFFICE any time at 517-353-6761 or mipa@msu.edu
PROUDLY HOUSED IN THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

MIPA MENTORS

“All teachers can remember their first years of teaching, especially advising. Having a MIPA mentor that understood my joys and struggles was a huge help. Now, as a mentor, being able to be a sounding board, a resource sharer and a friend reminds me of how I can improve my practice too.”

Sara-Beth Badalamente,
Ann Arbor
Huron High School



WE NEED YOU! BE A MIPA MENTOR

Advising can be a lonely job — at many schools, there may only be one journalism teacher in the building. But you can help a new adviser tackle the challenges of juggling teaching and production. MIPA is proud of the strong journalism advisers and programs in Michigan and invites you to help new advisers build confidence and solve problems.

You have experience and solutions, so let MIPA pair you with a newer adviser who will value your expertise and time.

As a mentor, your job will be to answer questions in a timely, professional fashion, as well as lending a sympathetic ear. You will also be asked to make contact with your mentee at least once per quarter during the school year to offer your support and encouragement.

We're always looking for mentors. If you've advised successfully for a while, please consider lending your help to those who could benefit from it.

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BEING A GOOD MENTOR

- ▶ **Be sure you have time to give to your mentee.** The most common frustration of mentees is that their mentor didn't get back to them in a timely manner. If you are too busy to respond to a new adviser's questions quickly, you probably shouldn't be a mentor.
- ▶ **Consider meeting your mentee face to face.** Many mentors invited their mentees to visit their school to see how their program is run. This is a valuable way for new advisers to get a feel for how an experienced adviser runs a journalism classroom. If this doesn't work, determine the best and most reasonable ways to connect to allow your mentee time to bounce ideas off you.
- ▶ **Critique your mentee's student media.** Some mentors suggested this as a valuable learning experience for the mentor, the mentee, and the mentee's staff. Hold high standards, but be kind. Remember your mentee is just starting out and too much negative feedback could cause them to feel overwhelmed or hopeless.
- ▶ **Start a media exchange with your mentee.** Let them see your paper, yearbook, magazine or video production so they can learn from it.
- ▶ **Meet up with your mentee at MIPA or JEA conventions.** Give your mentee someone they can sit with at lunch or attend a session with. Help them feel connected to MIPA and scholastic journalism.

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